

of the opposition has done so already, but I wish to place a different interpretation upon it. It is as follows:

A flow of immigrants commensurate with Canadian requirements and selected strictly for their ability to promote the general prosperity of the country is being satisfactorily maintained.

I am going to turn my attention now to the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Forke). I remember that when he sat in our group he always maintained that more people were required in this country, and evidently he still holds to that point of view. But prior to his acceptance of his present high office his view might have been put in these words: "If you create conditions in Canada which will give the masses of the people an opportunity to make a good livelihood, you will have no need for an immigration policy. They will come here of their own accord." Indeed, I have heard him say that the great trouble would be to keep the people out. Does the minister still believe in that policy, and if so, what is he doing to bring it into effect? What efforts is he making in the councils of his colleagues to make conditions in Canada so good that people from all over the world will be rushing to this country and we will have great trouble keeping them out? Later on he will have the opportunity to give this house some idea of his efforts in that regard, but it seems to me that the present immigration policy is not satisfactory to anyone. I do not know of any person who is pleased with it, although I may say that since I have been a member of this house I have not known of a government policy, whatever the party in power, which was satisfactory to everyone. We must admit that the question of immigration is most difficult, and after all I think if we went back to the policy held by the Minister of Immigration before he accepted his present high position, we would be on safer ground than is the case at present.

I wonder very often whether the people of Canada, and particularly the members of this house, realize how quickly Canada has recovered from her post-war troubles. There is no question in my mind that, considering the length of time we took part in the war, Canada has recovered from her post-war difficulties to a greater extent than almost any other country so engaged. In my judgment the reason for this is very obvious to any person who will give the matter a little consideration; the reason is that we have tremendous natural resources in relation to our population. Taking into consideration Canada's present population we have wonderful natural resources on which the attention

of the people has been focussed in the production of new wealth, and this to my mind has been the large factor in our remarkable recovery. In these circumstances we must realize that if we bring in a great volume of immigrants and the natural resources of the country become controlled by private individuals, it is quite reasonable for us to expect that we will not have even to the present extent the prosperity which would be ours with a smaller population. I am one of those who believe in letting this country grow naturally; I think the big trouble with Canada to-day is that people are always tinkering with it. If they would let it grow in its own way I believe everyone would be satisfied with the situation in a comparatively short time.

There is one point to which I wish to direct the attention of the Prime Minister and his colleagues, and more particularly the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Forke). While it is quite true that British immigrants of all classes are permitted to come into this country, provided they can pay their fares and are mentally and physically fit, yet, in so far as the great bulk of the efforts of the department are concerned, there are three classes in which they are trying to secure new immigrants. These are domestic servants, farm labourers and agriculturists. Personally I am quite willing to compete against any farmer who cares to come to this country, but I do not want to be placed at a disadvantage in so far as that competition is concerned. I would like to see all other classes admitted to this country on the same terms as the agriculturists. I do not see any reason why we farmers should be subject to the competition of new agriculturists coming into this country while the professions and even the working classes of Canada are being protected against such competition. We maintain that the time has come when this immigration question should be treated in the broadest way, and I take this opportunity of raising my protest against farmers being subjected to competition which other classes are not subject to.

Something has been said this afternoon with reference to the miners from Great Britain. The Prime Minister, in replying to the leader of the opposition, stated that the real reason why the government brought these miners in, or allowed them to come in, was that they might assist in harvesting operations in western Canada. I accept that statement as being the correct explanation of the situation. I would like to mention a little experience I had with a man who was working for me. This man came from Great Britain some seven years ago. He came out