

*Supply—Citizenship and Immigration*

industrial products, which would be turned out as a result of the expansion which we all foresee. I should like to see more signs of a positive plan of that sort being followed by the government. At the moment I agree with those who say that there are not yet evidences that such a conscious plan is being followed. Consequently, I think that there is a weakness in our immigration policy in that we are missing the boat with respect to large numbers of desirable immigrants who would like to come to Canada and who, in fact, are going elsewhere. We are thus allowing large numbers of potentially first-class citizens to pass us by.

The minister outlined the difficulties with respect to a country such as France, which he said was a country receiving immigrants rather than a source of emigrants, yet I believe there could be more positive action taken to encourage immigration from France, as well as other countries. I want to make it clear that I am not suggesting any undue emphasis should be placed upon immigration from any one country. We should, I think, accept and encourage immigration from any country whose citizens are capable of being absorbed into the culture which we now have in Canada. I believe that, subject to that over-all principle to which we adhere as firmly as any other party, we do allow unnecessary obstacles to continue in the way of immigration from the United Kingdom. The figures which I have before me, and which I want to place on the record at this time and to follow up later in particular discussion with the minister, show that proportionately a larger number of emigrants from the United Kingdom go to Australia and New Zealand rather than to Canada.

The minister last night placed on the record figures showing an increase in the proportionate numbers of the immigrants coming to Canada and originating in the United Kingdom. That is true, Mr. Chairman, but it is also true to say, according to my information, that that does not represent an actual increase in immigrants from the point of view of heads of families. My information is that the increase in the proportion coming from the United Kingdom was largely owing to the fact that wives and children of those who had already come to Canada came out in quite large numbers last year to join their husbands and that it did not represent an initial or new inflow of immigrants in the sense of new potential heads of families in Canada but was rather the result of the reunion of families, those wives and children having been left in Britain coming out to join their husbands

[Mr. Fulton.]

and fathers who had already come out in previous years.

I believe that there are methods ready to hand which could be evolved and which would go a long way in removing the obstacles which, as I have said, are unnecessarily allowed to stand in the way of immigration to Canada from the United Kingdom. One of these—and I think the most important one—would be for this government to conclude an agreement with the British government, as Australia has done, under the British settlement act which provides for assistance by the British government for their people to emigrate to other commonwealth countries. I cannot understand why more efforts have not been made to conclude an agreement along those lines. The fact is, Mr. Chairman, that according to my information the assisted passage loan scheme is not all the help it might be to immigrants coming here from the United Kingdom. It might be much more helpful if an agreement under their commonwealth settlement act could be made in this country. There is, so far as I know, no obstacle in the way of concluding such an agreement. It has been concluded with other commonwealth countries and I am at a loss to understand why it has not been concluded between Canada and the United Kingdom.

Then in the third place there are, I believe, certain aspects of our policy which bring us dangerously near to the possibility of criticism on the ground of discrimination. Here I want to make it clear that I am not advocating any open-door policy, particularly with respect to immigration from eastern countries. I have said previously this morning and I repeat now that we must preserve the ethnic balance of our nation. We want to take our country as we have it now and we want to develop it; we do not want to change it. Hence in our immigration policy we must be careful to preserve that ethnic balance. That fact in itself, it seems to me, dispels any idea of the open-door policy. I want to make it quite clear that I subscribe to that view. But what I am thinking of here is particularly the position of Canadian citizens of East Indian origin. Incidentally, I mentioned this problem last night and the minister said he would reply in his remarks. I take it that he overlooked doing so, and I hope he will deal with the matter a little bit later on.

It must be pointed out that these people are British subjects and have always been British subjects as well as being at the present time, in the great majority of cases, Canadian citizens. These men who have