

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

be able to get the information in some other way. How many immigrants had Canada absorbed until the end of 1948, and how many in each year since?

Mr. Harris: I would have to have a statement prepared to answer that.

The Chairman: Shall the item carry?

Mr. Fulton: There is one other point. The minister outlined an agreement with the Netherlands. It appears to be unobjectionable. I think he told us that the Netherlands actually finds the immigrants and brings them forward to us for examination. If that is unobjectionable in the case of the Netherlands, why is an agreement along similar lines objectionable in the case of the United Kingdom? We would still maintain the right to examine them in our offices in the United Kingdom. It seems to me what the minister has said disposes of his earlier argument against such agreements.

Mr. Harris: I said at the beginning that the government of the Netherlands embarked upon a policy of encouraging their people to go abroad. So far as I know that has not been the policy of any government in the United Kingdom since the war. They have maintained their settlement act, whereby they subsidized passages under certain conditions.

Mr. Fulton: Is that not the same thing?

Mr. Harris: No, not quite the same. In fact I believe I can quote the present leader of the government in the United Kingdom as saying something about its being a rather difficult thing, and that they ought to see it through. But I think the hon. member would find that he would be getting into a field that is wholly different from the Netherlands, where for the sake of their own economy they decided specifically that they would have to reduce their population.

Item agreed to.

61. Field and inspectional service, Canada—operation and maintenance, including \$10,000 for grants to immigrant welfare organizations, \$5,204,217.

Mr. Gillis: Under this item I should like to bring something to the minister's attention. I note that the item refers to field and inspectional service, and my question deals with both of them. I see here \$10,000 for grants to welfare organizations dealing with immigrants. I have a press clipping in my hand from tonight's *Ottawa Journal* that pretty well bears out the fears I was expressing today about bringing in immigrants who may not find jobs when they get here, and have

no accommodation. This Canadian Press dispatch emanates from Edmonton, Alberta, and states:

John A. Gough, an English immigrant, who claimed false information given him by Canadian immigration authorities in Britain was partly responsible for him turning to crime, pleaded guilty yesterday to five break-in charges, and was sentenced to one year.

Gough said that before he left England a year ago, he was assured there would be a job and accommodation for him in Canada. He claimed this was not the case.

I am not saying this press statement is absolutely accurate, but apparently there must be something in it. I would ask the minister, under this item, to give the committee a general description of how that inspectional service is carried on in Great Britain, and how immigrants are handled when they land in Canada. What does this welfare organization do, that is receiving the grant of \$10,000? Is there some redress for a man of this kind—in this instance he is in jail—to appeal to the welfare organization to assist him in finding employment, so as to keep him out of the toils of the law?

This case comes to our attention because the details have appeared in the press. However, there may be many more similar cases across the country. Are any efforts made to prevent these men getting into the toils of the law and ending up in jail?

Mr. Harris: If I might make one brief answer, it would be this. I could explain to my hon. friend just what the situation is, and at considerable length. I would be prepared to do so at any time he chooses. I think you realize that with nearly 800,000 people coming here since the end of the war, there are bound to be people who do not fit in and who may have formed the impression that they were given certain assurances. I have personally investigated many, many cases where people have said they were told thus and so. I find a wholly different story. I do not suggest that this young man is misleading anybody, but I do not think anyone could seriously hope that, in a migration of that size, you would not find some unfortunate people who would get into trouble when they got here, or that there would not be some who would have come with ideas which no reasonable person should have in the first place, and who come with no more than the ordinary encouragement which I think anybody here would expect our immigration officers to give.

Now, if we are going to have a policy of immigration we are bound to have immigration officers who like to tell people about the advantages of Canada. If you are not going