

Mr. ROBERTSON.—He comes here without an invitation from the Government.

Mr. WATTERS.—Quite a number of Trades Unions have urged that no immigrant be allowed to land in the country for a specified time to permit of surplus labour being absorbed before we throw open the doors. That might affect the credit of Canada in the financial world.

Hon. Mr. JAFFRAY.—What would you do with the vessels and transportation companies who land the immigrants? I suppose you would lay them up for six months too?

Mr. WATTERS.—The fact is that to a large number of working men they can only see how hard it is for them to secure a job and retain it to make a living, and they say if the Dominion Government would only prevent immigrants coming in it would give them a better chance to have work. It would assure them of employment. They are only looking at it from that point of view. And I may say that the transportation companies are looking at it from the same point of view. They are not interested in the welfare of the immigrant. They do not care how much Canada may be benefited from it. The moment they are not making money out of it their ships will be laid up. So that it is only a self-interested view the transportation companies take of these things. They are only looking at it from their own point of view.

Miss WILEMAN.—Still on the other hand it is a little bit human for a man who may have a wife and family depending upon his labour to feel that in the struggle for existence he has to look after them; so that one has more sympathy for the human side of it than for the transportation end of it.

Hon. Mr. BOLDOC.—What is the greatest objection of the British Columbia people to the Hindu immigration? Are the Hindus able to do the work of the white man?

Hon. Mr. RILEY.—I live on Oak Bay Avenue, and the electric road people have a gang of men on that repair car, and I worked for 20 years on railway construction myself, and came across all classes of men. I never saw a smarter lot of men than those Hindus. They were active and quick. They have to work between cars. They would run a car of rails, ties and gravel and that sort of thing, but the sum of them are not worth their salt. They are a fine looking race of people but they are no earthly use. For instance a man would give one of them a job to split wood and he would swing his axe backwards over his head and get it down to his heels.

Hon. Mr. JAFFRAY.—What proportion of them are useful and what proportion useless?

Hon. Mr. RILEY.—There is a class of them who should not be in the country at all. They are fighting, stealing and drinking.

Mr. WATTERS.—I want to bear out what you say that the fact of their being continually employed by the railway company is a guarantee that they are doing the work. I have watched them. I have thought I would rather see English speaking people doing the work, but I had to recognize that they were doing the work and doing it well. On the other hand I have seen them down in the saw mills and observed what an awkward lot they were and I thought if I were in charge I would not have them near me at all.

Hon. Mr. RILEY.—They are very clumsy in handling boards.

The CHAIRMAN.—The Committee wish to thank Mr. Watters for the information he has supplied to us.

The Committee adjourned.