

*Immigration Act*

there should be few out of work, the reports issued from the government Employment Bureau here are not at all encouraging as a barometer indicative of relief to any appreciable extent in the near future.

The experience of this city has doubtless been the experience of every other city in Canada; just as acute in comparison with population and the volume of employment which could be afforded.

The board of control of this city feel that the time has arrived for the cities of the Dominion to notify both the federal and provincial governments that if they brought immigrants to this country they would have to look after them until they found employment, or in the alternative, that the municipalities insist that it is imperative to adopt a new policy in regard to immigration, if not to entirely put on a speedy stop order. Recent despatches from Europe published in papers throughout the Dominion announced that over eight thousand immigrants would sail from European ports for Canada within the next few weeks to swell the number of thousands now idle for lack of the opportunities to earn a livelihood. On the other hand, thousands of our best trained mechanics are leaving Canada and entering the United States, where work is plentiful and where high wages are being paid. The United States immigration records show a monthly average of 17,000 Canadians entering the United States. In June, July, August and September of last year the figures ran from 16,000 to 18,000 per month. This movement, if maintained, would mean a loss exceeding 200,000 a year.

Mr. NEILL: I rise to a point of order. I did not wish to interrupt the hon. member sooner, because I think he was entitled to reply to hon. members who have also been out of order. But I would draw your attention, Mr. Chairman, to the fact that we are dealing with section 2, the purpose of which is to give authority to an immigration agent to deport at the expense of the transportation company members of a family accompanying a person who has been rejected or who is about to be deported. I do not wish to suggest any impoliteness to the hon. member for Centre Winnipeg (Mr. Woodsworth), and that is why I did not interrupt him sooner before he had read that letter. But the last several speakers have been entirely out of order in discussing, in connection with the question whether members of a family accompanying a person who has been rejected shall be deported, matters in regard to the tariff, and so on.

Mr. GUTHRIE: What about Chinese immigration?

Mr. NEILL: I will discuss Chinese immigration under its appropriate section, but I am not trying to discuss it under a different section or discuss the tariff on a section such as this.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pelletier): I think the point of order is not well taken and the hon. member may proceed.

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I would not object to stopping on a point of order, because I am inclined to agree that the point is well taken.

Mr. NEILL: I think I will appeal.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: But since this question has been raised at this juncture I could not let go unchallenged the statements which were being made. Right across the country from coast to coast at the present time are coming resolutions with regard to the bad conditions that exist. I have them from Port Arthur, the border cities, my own city of Winnipeg and points further west. Within the last day or so I was forwarded a resolution as far east as Sydney Mines, urging that something be done:

To relieve the distress amongst our women folk and starving children, as we have not had one day's work since 1st May. They managed to keep the mine open on 1st May, then closed her down although the government had an order for 1,400 tons per week from our colliery.

Such reports suggest that we are really faced with a serious condition across the country. For the past two years officials at Winnipeg have come down urging that if the government persists in its policy of dumping people in Winnipeg without there being any possibility of work, the government must accept the responsibility of caring for those people. At the present time meetings of unemployed men are being held on the market square of the city of Winnipeg. I had an interview only a few days ago with the mayor of Winnipeg who was visiting the capital on other business, he referred to the serious situation which prevails at present in that city with regard to unemployment. It does not seem reasonable that this government should continue to import people into these very centres which are keeping people on charity. If there is any further discussion with regard to opening wide the doors, we ought first to consider the condition of the people at home. I am not opposed to immigration; I am not opposed to people coming to Canada and taking their chance; but I do oppose assisted immigration which is often bringing in people who are not fitted for the country, who have not even sufficient to pay their way to Canada and who, therefore, have not sufficient to get a start. I oppose further the spending of large sums of money through the Immigration Department in spreading abroad literature that, whether or not it may be technically true, gives a false impression to those who have no previous knowledge of conditions which prevail in this country.