

responsible for the difficult situation that now exists in regard to emigration. One of our greatest difficulties is emigration. One cannot properly blame the Department of Immigration for the exodus that is still going on from the Dominion. That exodus, I fear, is still proceeding just as rapidly as it has for the last four or five years. I am told that every American consulate from one end of Canada to the other is so crowded with applicants for permission to cross to the United States that the staffs cannot handle the work. I know the situation in the city where I happen to live, and I know that there is a continual stream of good Canadians crossing over to the United States because they cannot find employment in the Dominion. But what I wish particularly to call to the attention of my hon. friend the Minister of Immigration and of my hon. friend the Minister of Railways (Mr. Dunning) too, is this, and I think they will agree with me, that even from the western provinces there is a stream of agriculturists going to the United States to-day.

Mr. DUNNING: No, no.

Mr. GUTHRIE: He says no. Well, my information on the subject is from the Regina Leader, published on October 30 last, and it gives these particulars:

"I am unable to give you exact figures, but I should say there are about three thousand applications under the different quotas," was the reply of Mr. E. E. Herbert, Vice Consul for the United States in Regina, Wednesday, when asked for information about Canadians or others desiring to go to the United States.

An hon. MEMBER: Or others.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I am coming to that.

Large increases are noted in the number of applications made daily at the American consulate. In fact Mr. Herbert says it is over double the figures of last year.

Somebody is misstating the case, either the Minister of Railways or the Minister of Agriculture is wrong or the Regina Leader is wrong, or Mr. Herbert is wrong.

Some days it will quadruple the figures of previous years, but daily there is an increase, and the staff is kept busy preparing papers and visas. Another interesting phase of the records is that a large percentage of outgoing people have large families. As late as Tuesday a family of father and mother and ten children left Regina for the south for permanent residence.

Mr. FORKE: May I inform my hon. friend that there has been considerable prosperity in the west during the last year or so and most of the people going south are going there for the winter.

Mr. GUTHRIE: That is a very ingenious explanation on the part of my hon. friend, but I regret to say it is not a very honest one. He knows just as well as I do that the article published in the government paper, the Regina Leader, was meant to convey the truth, to convey the information that very, very large numbers of people in the west were leaving Canada permanently for the United States. It is not only so in Regina, unfortunately that condition prevails all through the provinces. I am not blaming the Department of Immigration. The hon. minister was out when I said so. His duty is to bring people into Canada, but it is the duty of every department of this government, it is the duty of the whole government to see that this exodus is stopped.

Another question that has created a good deal of speculation and interest on this side of the House is the question of the Duncan report in regard to maritime rights. The report is long and somewhat involved, and I do not pretend that in the time at my disposal I have been able to read it other than casually. However, I have this to say in respect to it, it is a step in advance of anything which we have had from the King government during the last five years. From 1921 down to last spring there was an incessant demand from the people of the maritime provinces for a remedy of alleged grievances. I do not think my right hon. friend the Prime Minister ever realized until last session what the grievances actually were. I know he is reported as having made a speech a year ago in the Maritime provinces in which he declared: What are maritime rights, anyway? Well, if he did not know then, I think he has a very fair idea now respecting maritime rights. I point out likewise, Mr. Speaker, that for four long years the King government sat in this House with a solid delegation of supporters from the province of Nova Scotia, a solid delegation from Prince Edward Island, a substantial delegation from the province of New Brunswick. Day in and day out this matter was brought to the attention of the government and never was any action taken during the course of that whole four years. The government turned a deaf ear to all demands. Not until the people of the maritime provinces decided in the general election of 1925 to elect Conservatives did the King government waken up to the situation. Last spring when a Conservative delegation from these provinces sitting on this side of the House brought the matter to the attention of the government in such a forcible manner that it could not further remain dormant, it decided that some action had to be taken to meet the situation,