

Supply—Citizenship and Immigration

not always an answer. I just had the opportunity of talking with the new director and I am very pleased. I think he will do a good job in that department. I realize it is a difficult department, and what you do in one case perhaps does not satisfy in another. I am just going to mention one particular case.

Early in March of this year two brothers who had an interest in a piece of property wrote to the Indian agent indicating that when the estate was settled they would like to purchase the property. The Indian affairs branch did not advise them that it was not for sale, and later they found that the property had been leased to other than an Indian. When I made inquiry it was pointed out to me that the brothers had not indicated they wanted to lease it, but had wanted to buy it. I know very well that if the brothers had been told they could not buy the property but could lease it they would have been glad to lease it. In the meantime the damage had been done and the men are out of that property for another year. Now, these are good people. One of the men is a pattern and dye maker in the city of Detroit, holding down a good position. I do not wonder that they are a little bitter at the administration over the way things are handled.

Throughout my constituency there is a certain amount of uneasiness about the policy of the immigration department. I believe the minister knows that as well as, if not better than I do. It has probably been brought to his attention, and no doubt he will take steps to correct it. Some things have been said during the debate about the minister's department being held off until the last. Well, some department has to be last no matter what happens, and certainly I would not criticize the minister on that account.

I feel that these other matters I have brought to the attention of the minister will be taken care of by him. If he does not, then we will criticize him or his successor at the next session.

Mr. Churchill: My interest in immigration, Mr. Chairman, ranges over the whole field. There is one topic with which I want to deal today, and that is the long-term trend in so far as policy is concerned. In the past I have been very much interested in the policy of the department of immigration, and I am not sure we have yet a clear answer. I was looking at an article in the *Legionary* for January, 1953, written by a gentleman named E. H. Gurton called "The Truth about Immigration". In that article Mr. Gurton draws attention to the racial origin of the

population of this country at the time of confederation, and the change that has taken place from that day to this. For example, in quoting from the census returns from 1901 to 1951, he shows that in 1901 the people of British origin in this country amounted to 57.03 per cent; French were 30.71 per cent; and others 12.26 per cent. Then, the writer follows it through decade after decade to 1951 where the percentages are as follows: British, 47.89; French, 30.83; others, 21.28, indicating a decline in the people of British origin in this country of approximately 10 per cent.

Then he goes on to attempt to forecast the racial basis of our population at the end of this century, and suggests that if the present immigration policy is continued, at the end of the century the people of British origin in the country will be 32 per cent; French, 30 per cent and others 38 per cent.

I am not going to deal further with that article on this occasion, Mr. Chairman, but I would draw attention to the annual report of the department for the year ended March 31, 1952. I have been looking at the table on page 28 and have made a calculation from it of those people who have come from overseas and I am excluding the section dealing with immigration from the United States of America. Those who have come from overseas who are of British stock, or as they are called here British nationals, are as follows: 1900 to 1909, approximately 60 per cent were of that stock; 1910 to 1919, 64 per cent; 1920 to 1929, 56 per cent; 1930 to 1939, 45 per cent; 1940 to 1949, 60 per cent. Over a period of 50 years, I believe the British nationals, as the report calls them, were more than 50 per cent of the total number of immigrants coming to this country from overseas.

I am not going to debate the question as to what type of people are most desirable in Canada. We are well aware of the great number of races that are represented in this country, and we are well aware of the great contribution members of those various races are making. I raise no objection whatsoever to any racial group within the country. I am simply drawing attention to the fact that there are certain marked differences within our country, and certain changes taking place. But, as I say, we fully understand that most of the rest of the world is represented in Canada at the present time. The table at pages 30 and 31 showing the racial origins of immigrants, and nationalities, for the fiscal year just ended, indicates that other than English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh and French, 39 races have been represented in the group of immigrants entering Canada.