

*Immigration Act*

who have not been proven guilty of these offences. Section 42 reads:

Upon receiving a complaint from any officer, or from any clerk or secretary or other official of a municipality, against any person alleged to belong to any prohibited or undesirable class, the minister or the deputy minister may order such person to be taken into custody and detained at an immigrant station for examination and an investigation of the facts alleged in the said complaint to be made by a Board of Inquiry or by an officer acting as such. Such Board of Inquiry or officer shall have the same powers and privileges and shall follow the same procedure, as if the person against whom complaint is made were being examined upon application to enter or land in Canada and such person shall have the same rights and privileges as he would have if seeking to enter or land in Canada.

2. If upon investigation of the facts such Board of Inquiry or examining officer is satisfied that such person belongs to any of the prohibited or undesirable classes mentioned in sections 40 and 41 of this act, such persons shall be deported forthwith, subject, however, to such right of appeal as he may have to the minister.

So that there is the right not only of inquiry but also of appeal to the minister, and I believe that the people of Canada want to see justice meted out shortly and swiftly to offenders against this law.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Why does the minister object to a fair trial by the courts of the land?

Mr. ROBB: Does the hon. gentleman not think that this is a fair trial?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: A departmental inquiry, with an appeal to the minister the only appeal, is not a fair trial.

Mr. MILLAR: I think that very broad powers for the minister and the department are required just at the present time. At certain seasons of the year, particularly in harvest time on the prairies, it is quite possible—and indeed at times it does occur—for workmen to cause trouble and even terror. It is the easiest thing in the world just when the grain is being threshed, and when there are large gangs working together, for a man to put stones in the sheaves and so wreck the threshing machines; and it is not at all improbable that they would go the length of putting a bundle of matches in a sheaf. This is not imaginary, for I have had an experience of this sort myself. On one occasion I engaged two men who came from the province down by the sea of which we hear so much, and they deliberately put stones in the sheaves. They admitted having done so and when asked the reason they said that they wanted a rest; that was all. There may be something in the suggestion of the hon. member (Mr. Woodsworth) that these people should have a trial

[Mr. Robb.]

by judge or jury, but in many cases it is difficult to convict those men who belong to the I.W.W. and who are agitators. I noticed very recently that in a settlement in the Peace river country—I do not know just where it was but it was in the southern part of the district—a number of men of this class got together and made certain threats, and in fact even drove out the only two Canadian families that were in the district. They simply defied the powers. I have nothing but a newspaper report for this.

Mr. KENNEDY (Edmonton): I do not think the hon. gentleman should take the newspaper report too seriously; I know the district well and I do not think there is any foundation for the allegation.

Mr. MILLAR: The hon. member knows the district better than I do, and as I said I have just the newspaper reports for it. I know however for a fact, which no one can deny, that in the harvest season when men are gathered together from the United States and from eastern and far western Canada, there is very grave danger of machinery being destroyed. It is necessary at such times to rush the work through and one has to engage almost any able-bodied man who offers his services. It is difficult to weed out the undesirable ones and these men working among the others very often start an agitation; they will burn buildings and destroy threshing machinery and generally cause a great deal of trouble and loss of property. A law of this kind may possibly be required in the industrial centres; but speaking from this standpoint alone in regard to the western provinces I think it is highly necessary for the minister and the department to have broad powers to enable them to deal severely with this class in Canada.

Mr. ROBB: And swiftly.

Mr. HOCKEN: I am in entire accord with the measure as explained by the minister. I am a friend of labour but I am a friend of the man who wants to work and who desires order in this country. I am an opponent down to the ground of anarchy and anarchists, and I know that men have come to this country with no other intention than to cause trouble and stir up agitation, thinking they could subvert order in the towns or cities in which they settled. We had a group of harvesters from Scotland or England—

Mr. CHISHOLM: Not from Scotland.

9 p.m.

Mr. HOCKEN: Well, they were from England, Ireland or Scotland, but the