

Immigration

that department. What is needed is someone to go into that department with a good sharp axe and do a good clean-up job on the orders in council, regulations and red tape that have accumulated there over the years.

The debate serves to show the anomaly which exists in our immigration policy. On the one hand, everybody who is interested in immigration and who has given any study to the subject is agreed that Canada needs immigrants. Every after-dinner speaker tells us that we need anywhere from 25 million to 250 million more people in Canada. I suppose the number depends upon what the after-dinner speaker has taken immediately before he makes the statement.

With our wide and expansive country, our natural resources and our vast transportation systems which are serving to burden down this relatively small population we have in Canada, we are all satisfied that there is in this country opportunity for increased immigration and that a larger influx of immigrants would be in the best national interests of the country. All labour congresses and groups are agreed on that point. I think most social service organizations across the country are agreed on it. But just as soon as we have begun to increase the influx of immigrants, we find unemployment developing here and there and we find housing overcrowded. Then we find a great many people beginning to blame all our troubles on the immigrants. I suppose there is not a member in this house from an industrial centre who has not at various times heard constituents complain of the fact that immigrants are crowding them out of their jobs, crowding native Canadians or former immigrants out of their jobs, and crowding Canadians out of their housing accommodation. That situation in itself is not in the best interests of Canada. A country such as Canada, needing immigrants as we need them, cannot very well stand the anomalous position in which we find ourselves, where just as soon as we begin to step up the influx of immigrants we have wholesale criticism with regard to these immigrants taking the places and the opportunities of Canadians.

I am going to pass on to the minister some criticism. I do so not by way of criticism of himself as an administrator of a department but just as criticism I have heard from new immigrants and others interested in immigration. I shall pass it on to the minister and the government, not that I have any hope or expectation that what I have to say will have the slightest effect upon government policy.

Mr. Pickersgill: You can never be sure.

Mr. Noseworthy: I think those on this side of the house have long ago resigned themselves to the realization that nothing much that we say on this side of the house can penetrate the iron curtain which divides this side from the other side of the house.

Mr. Pickersgill: I thought the C.C.F. said they were responsible for all our policies.

Mr. Noseworthy: I shall pass it on, however, in the hope that it will at least cause someone in that department to review some of that jungle of regulations, orders in council and red tape that has tied that department up into knots.

One of the most frequently repeated criticisms I have heard from the immigrants themselves is with regard to the extent to which Canada is misrepresented to them in their homeland by those who are interested in bringing them to Canada. There is some indication that in the past some of that misrepresentation has come from employees or representatives of the government's own department. There is much more indication that the misrepresentation is done by transportation companies, by companies that are interested in drumming up passage trade between the old world and the new, and by employers seeking in the markets of the old world cheap employment for Canadian industry. I do not know what steps the government is taking but I am sure it would be in the interests of the department if the minister would tell us just what steps are being taken to ensure that immigrants coming to this country are given a fairly realistic and good picture of what conditions are.

Mr. Harris: May I interrupt my hon. friend just to say that on every occasion on which this question has been brought up in the house on the estimates of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, I investigated every case that was mentioned; I gave the assurance that they would be followed through, and directions have been given to all the officers abroad to bear in mind what has been said along the line of what my hon. friend is now saying.

Mr. Noseworthy: All I can say to the minister in reply is that there is still need for a continuation of that work or a continuation of every effort that the government can possibly put forth to see that Canada is not misrepresented and that the opportunities in this country are not misrepresented to the immigrants who come to our shores.

There is another point on which I want to make a few suggestions. I refer to the manner in which immigrants are checked for security reasons. Apparently the checking of immigrants for security reasons is done