

demned by that newspaper—advocating sending out British people to “reinvigorate” them in the Dominions; and to emphasize also the method in Australia of nominating prospective immigrants into that country.

Mr. NEILL: I do not think the point raised by Mr. Moore of the Trades and Labour Council has been adequately answered by the minister. Some months ago when the question of immigration was discussed in this House, we were told by the minister that the restriction would be rigidly enforced, the immigration being confined to farm labourers and domestic servants, and we accepted that assurance. Mr. Moore complains that that has been evaded by means of affidavits more or less carelessly entered into. We presume that is the only safeguard. The minister does not deny that it is the only method. When we consider conditions in southern Europe, when we know that many of these immigrants do not speak the English language, when we consider that they are being asked or solicited to emigrate by agents of shipping companies who are interested in a monetary sense, and when we hear that the only safeguard against taking in an undesirable class—that is, other than domestic servants or farm labourers—is that they are asked to make an affidavit, we cannot but think that there is practically no restriction at all. That means that as they pass through the shipping office, they are shown a paper, a spot on it is pointed out to them and they are told to make their cross in that particular place. The emigrant regards it as part of the formality of going abroad and he does so. Ninety per cent of them do not know what the contents of the affidavits are. Everything points to too great laxity. Apparently there is no one sufficiently interested to see that the regulations are enforced. The result is that we have not—

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I cannot permit the hon. gentleman to make a statement which is so far from the facts. I stated that in Great Britain every immigrant practically passes through the hands of some immigration agent. On the Continent, until quite recently, we had but one agency, and when a great number of immigrants were embarking some may have got past without conforming with the regulations. But to say that shiploads of such immigrants are being landed in Canada is to stray beyond the point of truth, and I must protest

against the statement. Every single last one of these immigrants must pass the immigration officer at the port of entry into Canada. True, we cannot tell that a particular individual may not be making a false affidavit as to occupation, but I would draw the attention of my hon friend to the fact that we make a very rigid investigation. Dealing with the class of people coming into my hon friend's province, I am prepared to admit a good deal of what he says—that those people managed to enter in various ways, and perhaps we are not aware how many did get in; but we are going to remedy that condition of things as far as we can. What my hon. friend states, however, is not applicable to immigrants coming through the eastern ports of Canada or through the ports of the United States.

Mr. NEILL: Did I understand the minister to state that there was only one immigration officer on the Continent?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes, up until a month ago; there are now three.

Mr. NEILL: I still submit that I am not very far out in my assertion. Where are these men located, in Antwerp?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There was always one located in Antwerp. That has always been a great port for immigrants.

Mr. NEILL: A man comes from Bolivia, a country in southeastern Europe—

Some hon. MEMBERS: You are slightly wrong in your geography.

Mr. NEILL: I meant to say Bavaria—I would rather see immigrants come from South America than from southeastern Europe; I am speaking of the Balkans, where they have been raising Cain for the last twenty years. Those people are not desirable immigrants. When they reach the eastern boundary of Europe what facilities have our officials to gauge their fitness for or experience in agriculture.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): As a matter of fact, there are very few immigrants coming from the countries mentioned by my hon. friend. The bulk of them are coming, or attempting to come, from Poland. That is where we are having the greatest difficulty at the present time. Very few of those people are agriculturists. I wish my hon. friend was Minister of Immigration for two days; he would then realize some of the difficulties that confront us. But those people are not landing in Canada.