

TO BUILD UP CANADIANISM

Hon. Mr. Calder Says This is
Basis of New Imm
tion Policy

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BRITISH TOMMIES COME

Labor to be Protected and
Farm Lands Developed
by Project Outlined

(Staff Correspondence of The Globe.)

Ottawa, April 29.—"Pump in the whites and bar out the Bolsheviks, Huns, spies, conspirators and Hutterites." This, in brief, is the new immigration policy of Canada.

It was outlined by Hon. James Calder in the House of Commons this afternoon. The Minister's bill, containing drastic amendments to the act, was given second reading. He said we needed people and capital to develop our resources, billions of dollars' worth of which are lying dormant. But we must avoid overcrowding the cities during the reconstruction period. In the past too much attention had been paid to erecting tall chimneys and not enough to the cultivation of the land. All Governments should devote their efforts to the development of rural Canada.

Building Good Citizenship.

Canada, Mr. Calder said, must consider seriously the discontinuation of our wide-open door policy with regard to immigration. Our citizenship must be protected from the elements that would swamp and destroy it. Our policy in the past with respect to Canadianizing our immigrants had been a tragedy. We did nothing to improve their habits, their customs and their respect for our laws. We just allowed them to drift. Some of the 50,000 to 70,000 Galicians, Ruthenians and Ukrainians in the West, for instance, lived in mud houses, and others had not where to lay their heads when they came to this country, so they just dug holes in the ground. Not only did Canada allow them to exist in that fashion, but they were "the prey of every shark in the community." In future we must Canadianize them.

Canada Free to Decide Policy.

The Minister said it was not likely there would be anything in the Peace Treaty that would affect the question of immigration, and Canada should have the absolute right to determine for herself what her future citizenship should be. "We should know best what class we can absorb and assimilate, and we must not be tied down by any treaties or agreements of which we have no knowledge and to which our consent has not been given. If there are any such treaties in existence we should get them out of the way as quickly as we can." (Applause.)

To Exclude Undesirables.

Mr. Calder explained that in addition to alien enemies, spies, conspirators and other dangerous characters, it was proposed to exclude persons suffering from loathsome diseases, criminals, mental defectives, etc. He announced that the Government intended to establish administrative machinery to see that the law in this respect is carried out.

To Protect Canadian Labor.

He said that steps must be taken against unemployment in Canada, and the Government had been excluding skilled and unskilled labor since the armistice was signed. Special efforts would be made to secure desirable immigrants, such as farmers, who have the necessary capital to enable them to establish themselves in Canada. Farm servants,

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both male and female, would also be encouraged to settle in the Dominion of Canada.

British Soldiers Coming.

Mr. Calder believes thousands of British soldiers will come here and take up land with the conclusion of the war. He mentioned that there were four or five hundred fewer Japanese in Canada now than in 1914, and hinted that the Government might abolish the head tax on Chinese entering this country. He said, "A very grave mistake has been made in placing a head tax on Chinese entering Canada," adding that but for this tax fewer Chinamen would have come to the Dominion. Companies had loaned them the necessary money and they had lived in semi-slavery until they had repaid the head tax with double interest. "When we go into this matter it may be found advisable to abolish that head tax and put the Chinese on the same basis as the Japanese, that is, restrict the number who may enter Canada," said the Minister.

Referring to the Hutterites, who are now flocking into Western Canada, he did not favor the deportation of those already here, but said: "We should be able to put up the bars and shut out any class of people than cannot readily be assimilated in Canada on account of their odd customs and odd beliefs. The Government proposes to do that in so far as these peculiar people are concerned."

Exploitation by Steamer Agencies.

Mr. Hume Cronyn said that the immigration system in this country during the past had been to say that every one was welcome, and then to start excluding a certain people. He thought this a bad system. He would prefer to see Canada adopt a positive attitude, stating definitely what races it preferred to exclude, and thus stopping people of those races from coming to the Dominion. He said that in the ten years prior to the war about 2,500,000 immigrants had entered Canada. The majority of these had come from Great Britain, but a large number came from Austria-Hungary, Italy and Russia. The emigration from Germany had fallen off markedly in the last five years prior to the war.

Mr. Cronyn felt that there should be restrictions attached to the immigration of certain races from Europe. He gave the committee information with regard to the immigration from Europe to the United States. A large part of this immigration was due to the efforts of steamship agencies, which exploited the European immigrants in their efforts to make money.

Opposes Arbitrary Legislation.

Mr. S. W. Jacobs declared that the immigration of 1896 to 1911, under the Laurier Government, was the foundation of Canada's prosperity. Whatever might be said of Sir Clifford Sifton, his immigration policy was the right one for the country.

Referring to alien enemy immigrants, Mr. Jacobs argued that so long as the people brought in were law-abiding, healthy citizens, that was practically all that was required. The enemy alien of to-day would be the friendly alien of to-morrow. It was possible that the friendly alien of to-day might become an enemy alien to-morrow. Mr. Jacobs doubted very much whether, under international law, Canada could legally say to the enemy alien, "You cannot come into the country because you were once an enemy alien."

He said there was no particular rush for a bill of this kind just now, especially as the work of the Immigration Department was being done well. He could not see why it had been introduced except for the purpose of barring out the enemy alien, which he regarded as undemocratic and contrary to international law.

Mr. Calder stated that there was no provision in the law to bar alien enemies.

Would Bar Abe Lincoln's Mother.

Mr. Jacobs objected also to barring persons who could not read. He said that under that provision, Abraham Lincoln's own mother would have been prevented coming into the country. If a man was a respectable, industrious and honest citizen that was enough. In the remote parts of England, Scotland and Ireland there were people who could not read, and Bolsheviks could not be kept out under that classification. They would only be keeping out the poor man, who through no fault of his own had not learned the art. With the exception of the two clauses referred to he would support the bill.

Mecca For Outcasts of Europe.

Mr. Donald Sutherland believed that in view of the restrictions imposed by the United States on immigration, it was important that the Government should bring in legislation this session; otherwise Canada would become the Mecca for the outcasts of Europe. He said he was astonished at the plea put forward by Mr. Jacobs for the enemy alien, and the limit had been reached when a member of the House made such a plea. He regarded it as so serious that a statement of that kind should be an unpardonable offense. He himself had not reached the stage, he said, when he could forgive or forget.

Mr. Jacobs—I am a better Christian than you.

Urges Immigration for Agriculture.

Mr. Sutherland said he was not boasting about that, and went on to say that Canada would find herself short of labor. Many of the movements on foot to restrict desirable immigrants should be stopped. He referred particularly to the antagonism expressed by some sections of labor. He said that agri-

culture was suffering for lack of help and bad farming was in evidence as a consequence. This was the reason why the cost of living was going to remain high. He protested against the feeling that had been engineered in the cities against the people in the country. He said that meetings had been held right here in Ottawa to deal with the cost of living, and at these the farmers had been attacked. He thought the Government should be very careful not to exclude desirable immigrants; but must act as though they were going to see that this country was a part of the British Empire. Men who had been overseas would see to it that a situation such as took place in the Canadian Parliament would never be enacted again.

The committee then reported progress and the House went into supply on the militia estimates.