

## **TO DEPORT UNDESIRABLE IMMIGRANTS**

An act to amend the conditions of the Immigration Act has been introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Oliver.

The main provisions of this bill are that:—

"Whenever in Canada an immigrant has, within two years of his landing in Canada, become a public charge, or an inmate of a penitentiary, gaol, prison, or hospital, or other charitable institution, it shall be the duty of the clerk or secretary of the municipality to forthwith notify the Minister thereof, giving full particulars.

"On receipt of such information, the Minister may, on investigating the facts, order the deportation of such immigrant at the cost and charges of such immigrant if he is able to pay, and if not then at the cost of the municipality wherein he has last been regularly resident, if so ordered by the Minister, and if he is a vagrant or tramp, or there is no such municipality, then at the cost of the Department of the Interior.

"If the immigrant is in prison, the Minister of Justice may, upon the request of the Department of Interior, issue an order to have said immigrant delivered up with view to his deportation by the superintendent of immigration, who shall also issue a warrant to some person to whom the unfortunate immigrant shall be handed over.

"Every immigrant deported shall be carried by the same transportation company or companies which brought him into Canada to the port from which he came to Canada without receiving any payment.

"In case he was brought into Canada by a railway company, such company shall similarly convey him or secure his conveyance from the municipality or locality whence he is to be deported to the country whence he was brought.

"Any such deported criminal immigrant who returns to the country shall be summarily dealt with and sent to jail."

There is also a somewhat similar clause dealing with stowaways.

It has been evident for some time past that an act on these lines was necessary to deal with undesirable immigrants. In this case also, the penalty of returning such a person free of charge will discourage the transportation companies from sending "any old thing" in the shape of an immigrant along.

Western Canada, particularly, does not want the ne'er do wells and riff-raff of other countries dumped within her boundaries, and such an act providing for their return to the place from whence they came will be welcomed as a protective measure in the interests of good government.

One clause, however, does not seem quite equitable. That is the section which provides that the municipality may be called upon to pay the cost and charges of an immigrant's deportation.

There is no reason why Calgary, for instance, should be called upon to pay the cost of deporting some undesirable member of the "submerged tenth," who has drifted in here without any knowledge or desire on our part. It would appear reasonable that the Department of the Interior, to whose policy his arrival in Calgary is indirectly responsible, should bear the cost of his removal.

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Source: *The Daily Herald*, Thursday, April 11, 1907.