

Agriculture and Colonization.

that Iceland, for example, has shown itself capable of maintaining only about 70,000 people. There are annually large drains on the population of that Island, and yet the population is never any less on that account. We have between fifteen and twenty thousand Icelanders in our own North-west, and there must be quite as many in the United States. Despite these heavy drains, the population of Iceland has not decreased. The mere fact of emigration going on has not had the effect of reducing population in European countries.

By Mr. Roome :

Q. It has in Ireland?—A. Oh, yes, I acknowledge that; but the circumstances there have been altogether exceptional, and the results in every way abnormal.

Following up what I commenced to say as to the action already taken by Mr. Daly, I may mention that Mr. E. J. Wood, a practical farmer from Southern Manitoba, who was at one time a member of the legislature there, and who may be known to some gentlemen of this committee, was sent over to England to follow up by more direct personal intervention the work which is being done in the rural districts by occasional lectures, and by the pamphlets which are distributed by the regular departmental agents, Mr. Dyke, of Liverpool, and Mr. Down, of Bristol. I believe it is Mr. Daly's intention to pursue in England this method of promoting immigration to a still greater extent as soon as he can lay his hands upon the right men for the work—men of the stamp of Mr. Wood—good practical farmers, having the capacity to convey their ideas and experiences in an intelligent and attractive way to the people among whom they go. In addition to Mr. Wood, there are four temporary agents in England, practical farmers, also from Manitoba and the North-west Territories, who are expected to spend the winter among their friends, convey to them the results of their experiences, what they had when they came to the country, what they are worth now, &c. Interest in Canada as a field for settlement is every now and then worked up in a particular locality by a lecture delivered by some clergyman or other person of good standing in the community who has visited Canada, and takes enough interest in this country and in the welfare of his fellow creatures to tell them what he knows about it. When local interest has been thus aroused, it is thought to be wise to follow it up by the work which men known in that community, who have removed to, and had success as farmers in Canada, alone, can do.

In Scotland, Mr. W. G. Stuart, who is well known to a good many of the members of this committee, has been appointed to promote in the same lines emigration from the north of Scotland; and Mr. Peter Fleming, who was for twenty-five or thirty years selecting agent in Scotland for the Australian colonies, has been appointed to do the same class of work in the south of Scotland. These gentlemen have not the intimate knowledge and practical experience of Canada that Mr. Wood has, but they are men of very great influence in their respective spheres in Scotland, and Mr. Stuart, as you know, spent a whole year in this country, living among the people, especially the people of Highland descent, in every settlement from the Atlantic to the Pacific. He spent the whole of last winter in the North-west, and he is able to speak with authority regarding that country, particularly, regarding the Winter, which is a kind of bugbear to the people on the other side. Both these gentlemen are engaged for one year, the continuance of their engagement to be dependant upon their success, and that cannot be judged of until next season. There may be some fruit from their work this year, but it is not likely to be appreciable until next season.

By Mr. Wilson :

Q. How long have they been there?—A. They commenced in the month of February. Then Mr. Auguste Bedard, a native of France, who has been in Canada for sixteen or seventeen years, who has lived in the County of Essex, and has been in the North-west, and is a very intelligent and enterprising man, has been sent to France and Belgium. We have had quite a number of settlers from both countries during 1892, as the report of the Department of the Interior will show. Then,