

being out of employment during the winter. I have no definite plan at all, but it seems to me the suggestion is a wise one that the Government should appoint a commission to make it their business to see what can be done to supply the farmers with the necessary labour during that time of the year, and that these men should return to the cities and be assured of employment.

MISS WILEMAN.—If the Government would inaugurate a Labour Bureau system with thoroughly well-trained experienced men and women to work it out, who could take evidence from all the different employers, and so on, would not that be the nucleus for forming a commission which could then go into the whole question of dove-tailing different kinds of work and regularizing employment. Russia is a tremendous agricultural country. There are a number of labourers there who go out to work in the harvest field, and arrangements are made for them in winter months to get employment in the city. If comprehensive data is first obtained from Labour Bureaus as to the seasonal occupations and trades in different neighbourhoods some system such as you suggest could be very thoroughly organized.

MR. WATTERS.—I think that is the idea the City Council of Winnipeg had. For instance take Esquimaux where I have worked, a disabled vessel might come in with some plates off and she would be placed in the dry-dock and we were all taken from the work we were on to get the vessel out of the dry-dock, and then we went back to our work. The same principle could be applied to the harvest. Draw men from the city to the harvest, and assure them of their employment when they come back to the city. I have talked to mechanics who say if they could go on the farms for harvesting, to have the bracing atmosphere, they would only be too glad, if they were assured of employment when they returned to the city.

MISS WILEMAN.—The Lumbermen's Association said that they thought the dove-tailing could be arranged, so that certain men who worked in the lumber camps could be assured of other work when they left the camps.

THE CHAIRMAN.—If they went to work on the farm they might develop a liking for it and ultimately go into the farming business.

MR. WATTERS.—I think they would be looking for harvest time to come again.

THE CHAIRMAN.—Eventually the man would go on land himself. You have heard the statement of Mr. Robinson about the class of people from the British Isle and what has been said of them, wandering from door to door looking for work. Do you think the ordinary fellow you have brought out from London who has never seen grass grow, that he is a good man to immigrate here?

MR. WATTERS.—I think it is a rank injustice to the man himself, and not fair to our people here. The whole environment and atmosphere with which that man is surrounded unfits him for the work in this country, and it is not fair to him.

THE CHAIRMAN.—You think we should discourage that class of immigration.

MR. WATTERS.—Yes, because after a man gets into the thirties his life gets into that rut where it is impossible for him to rise out of it, and he cannot adapt himself to the changed conditions.

THE CHAIRMAN.—You see advertisements "No Englishmen need apply". That is pretty broad. But because there is a few of that class we have been discussing it blackens all the Englishmen so far as getting employment is concerned.

MR. WATTERS.—Exactly. There have been these notices posted up, but on the other hand I have talked to many employers, and they want an Englishman, because he has served such an apprenticeship that they are sure of a first class man, but that is not made so public as the advertisement 'No Englishman need apply.'

THE CHAIRMAN.—The man referred to in that advertisement is the man from London who cannot turn his hand to anything. He is not a mechanic and cannot farm.