

Agriculture and Colonization.

settlers of that country. The feeling in the Dauphin country was that they were making progress.

Mr. SPROULE:—What about the Yorkton district ?

Mr. RICHARDSON:—I do not know anything about the Yorkton district ?

Mr. SMART:—These reports in regard to the Yorkton district were grossly exaggerated. From what we gathered, there was no ground for statements made in some of the papers in reference to that Yorkton settlement.

Mr. ROGERS:—As regards immigration of any kind it seems to me that the question has not been thoroughly dealt with by the Government in the past. There may have been money spent foolishly ; at any rate the results we have had from the money we have expended have not been what we would like. I should like to state that I have been an employer of immigrant labour for the last 30 years. I depend entirely upon hired help on my farm and I have given employment to men who have come with their families from the old country. Some of these people had practically no knowledge of farming in the old country, but I took great trouble to teach them. There are over 60 families in Ontario to-day that put in their first year or two on my farm, and many of these families are worth considerable money of their own earning. I know of one family in particular in Kingston that is worth \$6,000, and this is but one instance which can be duplicated by immigrant families scattered all over Ontario. In regard to these Galicians it is probable that they will grow up with the country and become desirable citizens. I went down to the station to see four train-loads starting for the West, and I was surprised at observing how bright and healthy-looking the young people and children were amongst them. It will pay us to bear with them and to go to sufficient expense to give them a foothold in this country. If our experience with these people is the same as it is with Irish, Scotch and English immigrants, with whom I have had to deal, we should endeavour to encourage them until their families grow up. What we want in this country are muscle and health. We must have these, and especially is female help desirable in the rural districts. The fact of the matter is that one of the greatest difficulties that we experience in the rural parts of Ontario is in getting help of any kind at all. Money is well expended in assisting these newly arrived immigrants until they are able to take care of themselves.

Mr. OLIVER:—I do not wish to raise any question as to the personal qualities of these people, but there is a question as to whether it is desirable to bring in people who have no means. I would like to say, in regard to what Mr. Rogers has stated, that the position in the North-west is that when you bring in a large number of people who have no means of their own and who depend upon their hired labour in order to live, unless the labour and wages are available for them they simply cannot live. That is the misfortune of some of these Galicians. While some of them have means they have been followed by their relatives and friends who have no means of subsistence unless they hire out, and it is difficult if not impossible for them to get sufficient employment at remunerative wages in order to live. That has been the case during the last year or two, and if a still larger number of people in the same condition are brought in I do not see where they are going to get the required employment to enable them to live. I would say : Don't place a lot of people there without means and without opportunity of earning means to go on their own places.

Mr. SPROULE:—Are a large percentage of them not living on charity ?