

APPENDIX No. 3

is an account running for three or four years, and never closed apparently, and of the same character as that Leopold account. You issue this report, I presume, and you saw there an account of that magnitude; have you not since you have been in the department discussed with your officers such an account as to whether you were getting such information as you were entitled to?

A. I say that I have been looking into emigrants' accounts, but so far only in a general way.

Q. Well, have you obtained from your officers any information as to how the audit has been conducted in the past under your predecessor?

A. Not on this item, not that I recollect.

Q. Of any immigration item?

A. No, I think not, unless in a very general way.

Q. Well, I observe--and I go back now to Leopold for a moment, I observe that the accounts you produce have certain information in addition to Mr. Preston's certificate and Mr. Leopold's account, but the papers produced are not signed. Here is a form intended to be signed by the shipping company. There is Mr. Leopold's stamp on it, his name, and the names of the passengers, with some of them erased and four or five left, and so on, with various accounts. The shipping company that brought out these men is supposed to sign that form. But there is no signature to it. Did you observe that?

A. Mr. Chairman, perhaps if you will allow me to make a suggestion, on matters of detail in connection with these accounts you will get much better information by questioning the officials who examined the accounts.

Q. I expect that. I am trying to see at present what the audit amounts to, because naturally, while we would take it for granted the accounts were all right when they passed your department, I want merely now to show, as I had to do on another occasion with the previous auditor, that the audit does not amount to anything.

A. I would say, in reference to that, that it is quite possible if I were asked whether that was sufficient or not, I might say no, that it was not a sufficient audit, but there may be other information which is not on that file which might justify it.

Q. If there is, we have not got it?

A. I am only suggesting. I am speaking now in ignorance of what other information there may be.

Q. Do you know of any?

A. It appears to me to be a criticism of the previous audit.

Q. I am asking the auditor now about the system. I know you did not do this yourself. The certificate is put on this form and printed: 'We certify' that is the ship company, 'that the above passengers sailed and were booked through to the places named, that all the particulars are correct'--names, and so on--'and that to the best of our belief the list includes no prepaid passenger, no one who has been in Canada before, and none but bona fide emigrants whose intention is to settle in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories (exclusive of the Yukon district).' That is not a valuable certificate because it is not signed.

A. It should be signed unless there is some other document attached to it.

Q. There are a number of these papers not signed. Now if this certificate is worth anything we ought to have it signed. Mr. Leopold stamped his own signature, and that is the only signature upon it, and then there is the general certificate from Mr. Preston that it was all O.K.?

A. I understand the certificates are on some other accounts from which those were transferred.

Q. This is the certificate from the ship for each batch of emigrants?

A. I understand that some of those are duplicates, and that the originals have got the certificates on.

Q. But, Mr. Auditor, we have asked the department and the Audit Office to produce everything?