

9 EDWARD VII., A. 1909

funds of that man as a guarantee against their having to pay for his expenses during the period of detention?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you think that is exactly fair to the immigrant?

A. An immigrant landing at an ocean port and found to be afflicted with some contagious disease which in the opinion of our doctors is curable is placed in the detention hospital. We do not handle any of the effects of that immigrant at all. It is a matter between the transportation company and their passenger and they either arrange with the passenger themselves or telegraph to his friends for funds the cost during detention being at the rate of 75 cents a day, which includes treatment.

Q. Has any statement been made to you as to what these steamship companies charge?

A. They only charge 75 cents a day.

Q. Have you any means of knowing that these immigrants get a square deal, so to speak, in that particular?

A. I think so.

Q. You have no statement to that effect?

A. The transportation company simply pay the 75 cents a day, we charge the immigrant. I don't think they collect anything further from him. I have known of cases where the immigrant was deported, or debarred as it were. If he had a ticket through, we will say, to Winnipeg from Quebec the transportation company would take that ticket up and cash it and charge the man for his return passage.

Q. Here is a point that I cannot understand: what authority would any transportation company have to take the funds of a sick man and dispose of them as they see fit?

A. It is a matter between the transportation company and their passengers.

Q. But the passenger is in a condition where, it seems to me, he is helpless?

A. What you mean is that they should not take his money at all.

Q. I doubt very much if any passenger could assert his rights under such conditions?

A. Well, he would be returned.

Q. I think myself there should be some precaution for the protection of the immigrant in that instance, there should be some arbiter of some kind to see that the immigrant is not overcharged?

A. I don't think that our officers would sanction any overcharge if they knew it.

*By Mr. Verville:*

Q. How much time is required to get a report as to an immigrant upon whom a bonus is paid?

A. No time at all.

Q. That is done as quickly as he arrives?

A. Yes.

Mr. VERVILLE.—You only have his word that he goes on the land.

*By Mr. Lake:*

Q. How do you calculate the number of immigrants that come from the United States?

A. We have inspectors at the international boundary.

Q. Any man who calls himself an immigrant is counted as being one, is that the case?