

from a source that in all reason is very unlikely to supply such needs.

With regard to the State Aided and Rate Aided. These are the products of the Distress committees, and of the workhouses. The distress committees are bodies in large centres of population, permitted under the terms of the Unemployed Workmen's Act, to levy a small rate as a tax upon the public for the emigration, and for provision by employment, or otherwise, of the unemployed in such communities. This tax is imposed up to a certain amount per pound, is used partly to provide food and shelter, partly to provide temporary employment, and partly to provide emigration. The distress committees usually operate through some recognized booking agency, providing the fares for the transportation, and leaving such booking agency to provide the employment on the Canadian side. There is no supervision of an official character exercised over these emigrants. The Emigration Branch of the Department of the Interior is neither advised of their numbers, their character, nor the date of their sailing. In the present condition of the Law, if a Distress Committee is satisfied that a booking agency organization can satisfactorily dispose of the men, the bargain is completed between that organization and the distress committee, and that is the end of it.

With reference to the Rate Aided emigration, that is the emigration provided by the Poor Law Guardians, there is a certain measure of control. When, for any reason, the Guardians of the district are satisfied that the inmate of a workhouse is capable of working his way in Canada, or elsewhere, under new conditions, and with a fair start, they apply to the President of the Local Government Board for permission to appropriate from the public rates under the Poor Law a sum necessary for the emigration to Canada, say, of such person, or persons. The Local Government Board has laid it down as an imperative instruction that the consent of the Assistant Superintendent of Emigration for Canada, must, in every case, be obtained before the emigration is permitted of such pauper person or persons. Here the Department is able to exercise some control, and does so, I venture to say, with good effect.

In the first place, rigorous independent enquiry is made by ourselves, in which the previous character of the family, a medical examination on a prescribed form (after the manner of a life insurance medical application form) is filled up by a properly qualified medical man, and where it can be shown that the answers are correct, the health of the persons unques-