

Mr. OLIVER. In order to answer the hon. gentleman so that there may be no misunderstanding, I shall read from a circular which we have sent to the booking agents of the old country.

Mr. SPROULE. When you say 'the old country,' what do you mean by that?

Mr. OLIVER. England, Ireland and Scotland. In this circular we set out, not only what we are doing, but why we are doing it. When we put in force this new order in council we propose to make the same conditions applicable to continental Europe, but for the present I am discussing the British bonus which has been in force for a year, and in reference to which we have issued these instructions to the agents in Great Britain and Ireland :

The classes of people on whom bonus is paid by the Canadian government are expected, by reason of their experience at home, to find scope for their abilities in the occupation of the vacant lands of Canada, in employment upon the lands now occupied and cultivated, or in the railway development now in progress. And while it is not asserted that people of other callings or conditions of life should not come to Canada, or may not find a career open to them in this country, it is desired to have it well understood that the government of Canada assumes no responsibility with respect to any other immigration than that of the classes mentioned as eligible for bonus payment. It is not asserted that the farmer or farm labourer is necessarily a more desirable citizen than any other, but it is a simple fact that the demand in Canada is for people to occupy the as yet vacant lands of the country, to aid in the cultivation of those already occupied, and also to assist in providing additional transportation facilities. This it is which justifies the government in assuming the expense of immigration effort. To go beyond the attempt to meet these requirements would be to use the money of certain classes of Canadian taxpayers for the purpose of securing competitors against them in their several callings, for which they would naturally hold the government to account.

There is the policy of the government in regard to this matter of immigration of the different classes as set out to the people who are acting as agents of the government in Great Britain.

Mr. SPROULE. Are these the only classes for whom the department pays bonuses to the steamship agents ?

Mr. OLIVER. In order to have the matter thoroughly understood, I will read from the circular which is sent to the booking agents, setting out the terms upon which the bonuses may be earned. I have already read from the supplementary circular which explains the reasons of this arrangement :

1. Bonus will be paid provided the regulations of the department are complied with, upon tickets to Canada sold to British subjects, whose occupation in the United Kingdom has been for at least one year, one of the following, viz.: farmers, farm labourers, gardeners,

stablemen, carters, railway surfacemen, navvies or miners, who have signified their intention of following farming or railway construction work in Canada ; and female domestic servants.

2. Bonus is only payable on emigrants landing at Canadian ports, excepting those landing at Portland, Maine, during winter.

3. The bonus will be £1 on each person of prescribed classes, eighteen years of age or over, and 10 shillings on those between one and eighteen years of age. No bonus on infants, tourists, returning Canadians, prepaid tickets, or persons of other occupation than one of the above-named, or on persons mentally or physically unfit. To obtain bonus on saloon passengers it is necessary to obtain the certificate of one of the accredited agents of the department in the United Kingdom.

I read this in order to set at rest the contention made by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Armand Lavergne) that the system of paying bonuses tends to indiscriminate immigration. The system under which we are paying bonuses to-day in regard to British immigrants, and under which we propose to pay bonuses on continental emigrants is essentially the system whereby a bonus is used to secure a select class of immigrants, suitable to meet the requirements existing in this country.

Mr. SPROULE. Before the hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver) leaves that branch of the subject, may I ask a question ? Is he giving any assistance to immigrants from continental Europe or other portions of the world ?

Mr. OLIVER. My hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) I fear has hardly followed the address of the mover of the resolution. The ostensible cause of the resolution is an order in council recently passed whereby the government takes authority to pay a bonus of £10s. a head on immigrants from continental Europe, according to the same conditions as bonuses are paid on British immigrants. We have not yet begun operations under this order in council, but the principle is the same as in the case of the British bonuses, the only difference being that the bonus on the immigration from continental Europe is just half that on immigration from the British Isles.

Mr. SPROULE. Let me go just a little further with my question. What commission does the department pay to agents in the United States ? Or is the system of paying bonuses for American immigrants the same as in years past ?

Mr. OLIVER. I cannot give the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) at this moment the information he asks for. We have a large number of agents in the United States who are on salary. We have had a large number on commission. My impression is that the commission in the United States is \$2. But the position in the United States is not at all parallel to that in Europe. The booking agent as he exists in continental Europe