

1 GEORGE V, A. 1911

years quite a number have been forced out of business on account of their unfair dealings, and even at the present time the cases of a few whose actions have been doubtful are under investigation. Inasmuch as a bonus is paid to booking agents selling tickets to farmers, farm labourers, and female domestic servants, each one of these booking agents is looked upon practically as an agent of the department, and they are supplied with literature by the department for distribution among their prospective customers. The same method is followed by Australia, New Zealand and other colonies seeking immigrants, but so far Canada has been able, by its superior class of literature, and the extra advantages which the country offers, to hold the services of practically all the agents, so that a person desirous of leaving the old country and going to a booking agent for advice, is much more likely to be directed to Canada than to the other colonies. The bonus paid at the present time is £1 per head on adults and 10s. on those between one and eighteen years of the occupations specified.

*By Mr. Sharpe (Lisgar):*

Q. What commission do you pay?

A. A bonus of £1 per head on adults, and 10s. on those between one and eighteen years of the occupations specified, that is farmers, farm labourers, and female domestic servants. For the calendar year 1909 the bonus was paid upon 4,063 men, 2,647 women and 1,405 children, while for the calendar year 1910 the bonus was paid upon 9,813 men, 6,015 women and 2,840 children. As the classes on whom the bonus was paid was the same for both years it is very gratifying to note that the numbers for 1910 are more than double those for 1909. New South Wales offers a passage to farmers and farm servants for £6, providing that he has £4 additional in money, and they offer a passage for £3 to his wife and £1.10s. for every member of his family under eighteen years of age, whether there be one or a dozen. They are offering passages to domestic servants for £3, providing they have £2 in money additional, and the booking agents gets £1 in each case. The state of Queensland is offering passages to farmers for £5 providing they have £50 in money additional, and free passages to wives and children, also free passages to domestic servants, providing they are country girls, and it pays 32s. to booking agents for every person booked, whether free or paid.

In all the British offices lecturing is one of the most important branches, and hundreds of lectures are delivered every year by the regular staff. The distribution of the Canadian atlas and school maps is having an excellent effect in directing the attention of the rising generation towards Canada, while the millions of copies of immigration pamphlets distributed in the past few years has gone a great way towards dispelling that ignorance regarding Canada which was at one time only too noticeable in the Mother Country.

On the Continent offices are maintained at Paris and at Antwerp, where newspaper advertising is carried on, the Canadian atlas distributed to schools when possible, lectures arranged, literature distributed, personal inquiries answered and a knowledge of Canada disseminated by all means possible. The government agents have the assistance of certain selected booking agents, to whom a bonus is allowed on passengers booked by them, the bonus being of the same amount and paid on the same classes as is the case in Great Britain.

In the United States, the department has eighteen regular offices, located as follows:—

Detroit, Mich.; Kansas City, Mo.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Omaha, Neb.; Grand Forks, N.D.; Toledo, Ohio; Great Falls, Montana; Boston, Mass.; Providence, R.I.; Spokane, Wash.; St. Paul, Minn.; Chicago, Ill.; Watertown, S.D.; Indianapolis, Ind.; Marquette, Mich.; Pittsburg, Pa.; Syracuse, N.Y.; Biddeford, Me.