

The initial consideration and first and most important step to be taken in the matter of these advances is to make proper selection of the persons to be assisted. It is an indispensable, absolute first principle, that the person who is to be assisted shall be found to be worthy in every respect of such assistance. In laying down this proposition I am only expressing the views of those who have interested themselves in and studied this phase of the question. Personal observation and inquiry in Manitoba and the North-west Territories about, and amongst, the people who have been assisted out there by philanthropic and other agencies, clearly demonstrates to one who has investigated the subject that all who have been so assisted and have proved failures were failures before they left their old homes, and should never have received the aid which brought them away from there. If indiscriminate choice is made, and haphazard methods adopted, in the selection of people who are to be brought out to Canada or any other British colony, then all such people are sure to prove failures, and only reflect discredit upon those who sent them out and upon the country of their adoption. Wise and independent men, who are entirely disinterested and have local knowledge and understanding, associated with our experienced Canadian Government agents, should alone have to do with choosing those to whom assistance is to be given, the former to afford full information as to the antecedents and general character of the applicant, and the latter, from observation, inquiry and personal communication and otherwise, to judge whether such applicant is physically and mentally fit to cope with the conditions of the new life he and his family are to enter on. I think that only men up to a certain age should be assisted, but the age limit should not be too arbitrarily fixed in case it might exclude any one a little over the limit who had a family of grown up sons and daughters. This latter consideration should offset most other conditions, as there is no better capital that a man can start with in a new country than a large and growing family, the older members of which are wage earners. An agreement could be made with the people so assisted by which they would undertake to return the advances made, such repayment to be made in yearly instalments commencing say three years after location upon the land, and to bear interest from the date of their sailing, both principal and interest being secured by a lien upon their lands. I would recommend that a commencement of this system of assisted passages or advances to intending settlers be made at as early a date as the necessary legislation can be obtained to authorize the expenditure, if it is thought such legislation is required. The numbers so assisted could be limited for the first year or two, one-half of the amount appropriated for such purpose being used in England and Wales, and the other half equally distributed between Scotland and Ireland. With a yearly inspection of the homesteads of these people, and a careful and constant supervision over their operations and interests, I have no doubt as to the success of such a scheme. The fact of these advances being made by way of a loan on the security of their lands, and reduced to a business basis, relieves these people from any idea of being looked at as objects of charity, and what is of more importance it would not create that feeling of dependence which has obtained amongst many of those who have been so assisted by philanthropic societies in times gone by. To create a feeling of self-reliance and perfect independence should be one of the objects underlying this movement.

Prepaid Passages.

(c.) A system has been in vogue in the Western States for some years back known as "Prepaid Passages." It means that through the assistance of local banks, railway corporations, and other agencies, settlers in the Western States have been enabled to send money or tickets to their friends in the old land whom they were desirous of bringing to America. It is surprising the thousands of people that have been brought out to the Western States by this means. Unfortunately, little has been done in this way in Western Canada. It seems to me that this is a matter which the Canadian Government would be fully justified in taking up and carrying out to a successful conclusion. There are many men now living in Manitoba, the Territories and British Columbia who have