

2 GEORGE V., A. 1912

Q. But with regard to the agents you employ in Great Britain, have you not a large number of farm delegates going around?

A. Yes?

Q. Giving prospective immigrants information?

A. Yes?

Q. And trying to influence them to come out here?

A. Yes.

Q. What proportion of these representatives are from Eastern Canada or from Ontario, and what proportion from Western Canada?

A. This year there are five from Ontario and twenty-five from Western Canada.

Q. 25?

A. Yes and 5 from Ontario.

Q. How many for Western Canada?

A. 25 from Western Canada and one in Quebec and one in Nova Scotia.

Q. How many were there last year?

A. I haven't the figures here.

In general terms I may say that it has worked satisfactorily. The principal dissatisfaction being that there has never in any year been sufficient numbers arriving to fill the requirements. The Canadian Government employment agents who were progressive, who corresponded with large numbers of the booking agents in the Old Country and who thus placed the needs of their immediate locality in a direct manner before the emigrating public, received the lion's share, whereas these who were less diligent in asking for help received only small numbers in reply to their requests.

To my mind the plan of having emigrants placed by an agent living in close proximity to the prospective employer is more desirable than having the work done through one or more central offices which would, of necessity, in many cases be long distances from the work. If an immigrant books to Toronto and then has to re-purchase a ticket farther on or a portion of the way back, additional expense is incurred by him which he may be unable to meet or which, if met, constitutes a drain upon his resources which he can ill afford. It is, therefore, more desirable that the immigrant should be booked from the old country direct to the railway station nearest his work. Having employment agents working on a commission basis rather than on salary gives the added advantage that if the agent does no work he receives no pay. The inauguration of the system has naturally been slow. The booking agents in the old country were not quick to see the advantage of the system, but I believe a very large percentage are now in favour of it. The whole success depends upon the efforts which the employment agents put forward to bring the claims of their district before the British public.

*By Mr. Sutherland:*

Q. Before you go any farther you had, last year, about 83 of these local distributing agents?

A. Yes.

Q. And you say a good many of those did not get any men at all?

A. I will tell you in a few moments if you will kindly wait until I have finished this, then I will gladly answer any questions. I have the information here.

*By Mr. Morphy:*

Q. Do I understand that Mr. Scott does not wish to be interrupted? Because there are certain questions which suggest themselves whilst he is reading his paper that will be forgotten if we have to wait until afterwards. If that is the intention it would be better to let the members have memo. pads on which to make memoranda.