

## Agriculture and Colonization.

Q. Does the railway get any commission on immigrants from the United States?

A. No.

Q. I understand that some assistance is given in the North-west?

A. There is, through the local agent. I will explain that later on.

*By Mr. Clancy :*

Q. A portion of the passage of the Galicians is paid the same as the others through this bonus system?

A. That is to the steamship companies' booking agents.

Q. That is paying a portion of the passage?

A. I think not. It is bonusing people to work in the interest of Canada and it applies to all tickets purchased by people whose destination is Canada.

*By Mr. Wilson :*

Q. I have always felt that is wrong?

A. We do not pay it to the immigrant.

MR. OLIVER:—I want to make a statement in regard to these Galicians. The facts are that the Austrian Government is willing to assist or allow emigration from among the Galician population, whereas they will not encourage but will as far as possible prevent any emigration of their German population. Therefore, the immigration we are getting of Galicians is not emigration in the proper sense of that word. It is deportation rather than emigration. Galicia was at one time part of Poland, and was originally settled by these people of Slavonic race. They do not suit the Austrian Government, not being sufficiently progressive, and the Austrian Government colonized this province with German settlers from the Rhine provinces. These are facts which I have obtained from the Germans at Edmonton. Now, the Germans being settled in Galicia, alongside the Slavonic settlers, have progressed and increased in numbers. The Galicians have also increased, and it came to a matter of crowding, so that somebody had to get out. The Germans began to get out, and having means they were enabled to do so. A certain proportion of them came to Manitoba and the North-west Territories and settled at various points, and some moved to Edmonton. Along with them came two or three of these Galicians. In Galicia the German farmers employ the Galicians as labourers. When the Austrian Government saw that it was a question of either the Germans or the Galicians getting out, they resolved to hold their Germans. They sent Professor Oleskow on a prospecting trip to Canada. He found these few Galicians at Edmonton contented and suited, and reported to the Austrian Government; and whether that Government gave any actual assistance or not, it certainly gave its hearty blessing to any country to which the Galicians would go. That is not a reflection on the Galicians. It may be a matter of race preference of the Austrian Government for its German subjects in preference to the Galicians. The Committee will see, therefore, how in the first place we got German and now Galician settlers. The Galician will work as any other man will work, when he gets hungry. The people are right down to bed rock. They never had anything. That is their position, and if they ever get anything they will be better off than they ever were before.