

Argentine Republic, New Zealand and Canada, and we pay a bonus so that Canadian interests will not be neglected. He distributes our literature.

Hon. Mr. BOLDOC.—I should say the best evidence is when you receive a farm labourer.

The CHAIRMAN.—But the man is working to sell a ticket for the railway company and to get a pound out of the Dominion Government.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—If he did not get the pound to send a man to this country, it would pay him better to send a man to Australia.

The CHAIRMAN.—What does Australia pay?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—They pay a bonus to certain classes.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.—What surprises me is that only 17 per cent. of the immigrants from Great Britain entitle the party, from whom the immigrant buys his ticket, to get a bonus.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—That is because the head offices of the steamship companies are not allowed any bonus, and a large amount of their business is done through their head office. They do their advertising on a larger scale than individual agents.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.—Would that mean that those head offices being located in the large cities receive men from those large centres who are presumed therefore not to be farm labourers?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—That would hold good to some extent also, but the head offices advertise very largely and naturally receive many applications from the country district.

The CHAIRMAN.—Do you know on what percentage of immigrants going to Australia has a bonus been paid by the Australian Government?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—I do not know.

The CHAIRMAN.—I want to see whether those booking agents are sending more agricultural immigrants to Australia than to Canada.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—They have financially assisted 60 per cent of their immigrants in the last 20 years.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.—Do you happen to know the proportion coming from the large cities of Great Britain and the proportion coming from the rural part?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—No. It is very difficult to say, because there is not a county in England that has not a large centre in it. We used to keep statistics by counties but we found it was of little value because all the counties had large centres in them.

The CHAIRMAN.—Do you not think it is about time we should do away with the system of granting bonuses to agents?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—The best immigration agent is the satisfied settler, and the more satisfied settlers we get the less necessity there will be for employing other means. The best immigrant as a rule is the man brought out by the assistance of his friends already here.

Hon. Mr. BOLDOC.—Have you any idea of the class of immigrant who goes to Australia? You say there is a proportion of 60 per cent, assisted. What class of immigrants do they assist?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—Their assistance is in general, I think, somewhat the same as ours, given to people who are going on the land. The conditions of going on the land in Australia and in Canada are different and I doubt if they are meeting with quite as much success.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.—What is the reception given by the farmers of the West to an applicant who admits he has had no experience on the farm, but is ready to work for his board, to try and learn?