

Q. Do you think it would be prudent to allow the examining agent to be the judge as to the amount of money in a man's possession? For example if a man arrives here who is hale and hearty and a desirable immigrant in every respect, who has enough money to reach his destination but does not happen to have exactly \$25, it would seem a pity to exclude him?

A. We would not turn him back. Our agent would use his discretion, especially if the immigrant was going to friends at a point in the country, who would take care of him.

Q. The law seems to allow no discretion?

A. The present law does.

Q. I think it fixes a minimum of \$25?

A. The order in council fixes the amount at \$25, but that is only in case he has no work guaranteed or no friends where he is going, but is an absolute stranger.

Q. In a case of that kind, if he had enough money to enable him to reach his destination and the agent thought he was a fit and proper person—

A. And was going to a country point and was of the class of men that have no difficulty in getting work—a farm labourer, for instance—the agent would not stop him. The agent must use discretion.

Q. What amount of immigration do you anticipate we will have this year from the outlook so far?

A. Our total immigration up to the last fiscal year was 146,908, a decrease of 44 per cent as compared with the year before. That was up to the end of March. I might say that March of this year shows an increase of 7 per cent over March of last year.

By Mr. Lake:

Q. You think the total immigration may reach 200,000 this year?

A. Pretty well up to it.

Q. You have no machinery in your department to send the immigrant to any particular part of the country, as they have, I think, in the United States? Immigrants come here and are free to go where they like, are they not?

A. Immigrants of the agricultural class coming to Ontario are all sent to certain points by the booking agents. They are booked through to their destination by the booking agents. I think we have 150 different points where they are sent to.

Q. The interest of the transportation companies is to take them as far as possible.

A. I suppose the more money they can get the better. The steamship companies have increased the ocean rate again this year.

Q. Are you continuing this year the system of locating agent?

A. Yes, in Ontario and the eastern townships.

Q. Anywhere else?

A. We have a few in some counties in Quebec, I think four or five altogether. The number of French immigrants that come into the province of Quebec is small. The people that these locating agents are dealing with principally are the English speaking people and we are placing most of them in Ontario.

Q. Have the results been satisfactory with these locating agents?

A. I think so, very satisfactory.

Q. You seem to have had a great many who have defrauded the department?

A. I would not call it defrauding.

Q. At least a fair proportion of them have?

A. When we first started the system of distributing these men in that way, some of the locating agents being farmers did not understand the regulations of the department very thoroughly. The department has not lost any money through any of them.