

Agriculture and Colonization.

As speedily as possible after their arrival, the immigrants are placed on board colonist sleeping cars furnished by the railway companies ; and if, in the opinion of the agent there be any desirable object to be accomplished thereby, an official, who speaks the language of the party, accompanies it as far as may be thought necessary from the port of landing, so as to see that the people are all comfortably settled down, that they are in good health, that they are using to the best advantage the facilities for cleanliness and preparation of food which are furnished for them by the railway companies, and if either they or their women or children should suffer in any way from the results of the journey, to have medical attendance and comforts procured for them. This last, of course, is an authority which is used by the attendant only in cases where absolutely necessary, because the expense of that sort of attention is great.

At Montreal and Port Arthur every immigrant train is visited by an agent of the Department and accompanied part of the way, and in cases of Scandinavian parties of considerable size, the interpreter who is stationed at Ottawa also visits the train and assists and advises his fellow-countrymen.

On arrival at Winnipeg the immigrants are met by a competent staff of officials, speaking the various European languages, and there again the arrangements for their comfort in the immigration hall are excellent. They are not encouraged, however, or even permitted to make any more than a temporary use of the Government buildings, but encouraged to commence work and strike out on their own account immediately on their arrival in the country. In every instance where they are looking for homesteads, reasonable assistance is rendered them, and local farmers speaking the language of the party concerned are employed and paid by the Department to show them over the vacant and available agricultural lands in the respective districts. The advantage of this system is found to be that it saves the Department the expense of keeping guides in permanent employment, who would be at the service, after all, of but a comparatively small proportion of the arrivals, and would cost the Department more than the present system does. There is also the inducement that if the immigrant is a desirable one, his guide has a personal interest in procuring him a suitable homestead in his own locality. The plan has been found to work very well, and is very economical. I might also add that it has the advantage of giving to the local farmer guide, a little ready money at a time when it is likely to be of very great use to him.

By Senator Perley :

Q. How long after does he get the money ?—A. As soon as the service is completed, immediately he returns from the trip. I might say that money to pay expenses of this kind is placed at the disposal of the agent from month to month according to an estimate he furnishes. He accounts from month to month for the money placed at his disposal, and sends forward an estimate of the money he will require for the following month.

In what I have said above I have dealt almost exclusively with European immigration. We are also carrying on operations in the United States which are productive of excellent results, and which could be extended with great advantage if we had the money to do it. We have three salaried officers, namely, Captain Holmes who is our chief agent in the United States and who goes about wherever useful work can be done ; Mr. P. F. Daly who manages our Immigration Bureau at Chicago ; and Mr. C. O. Swanson who works among the Scandinavians, principally in the New England states. In addition to those we have one temporary agent on salary working in Michigan, and we have some sixty commission agents who are paid by results.

Ever since the enforcement of a strict quarantine against cattle from the United States, we have been at the expense, jointly with the Department of Agriculture, of caring for any cattle brought across the line by settlers during the quarantine period of ninety days. The share of the expenses in this relation which had to be paid out of the immigration appropriation each year since the arrangement was effected, and the payments for veterinary inspection, have been as follows :—