

APPENDIX No. 3

ing emigration to Canada on the lines presented in the agreement. The parties concerned are all men with means at their disposal, and entertain the idea that it may be possible to enter into arrangements with intending emigrants who have not the amount of money at their disposal called for in the agreement, to advance the necessary funds at a reasonable rate of interest, they taking a lien upon their holdings, or locations, until the principal is paid. It will not be out of place for me just here to refer to the extensive character of the work that the syndicate in question intend to carry out.' Then he goes on to refer to the work in the various countries.

Mr. LEMIEUX.—What is the date of that letter?

Mr. BARKER.—26th October, 1899. I am referring to this to show the origin of this agreement.

'I would also point out to the attention of your lordship that for sixteen years the government of Canada have paid a bonus to booking agents on emigrants from all the countries embraced in the provisional agreement referred to. There have been conflicts between the booking agents as to whose firm was entitled to the bonus upon certain emigrants from time to time, and the decisions of the department have not always been received with good grace by the disappointed claimants for the bonus money, so that all the opportunity has been offered under the plan that has been in vogue for many years, to prompt rival agents setting supposed laws in motion against those whom they might have desired to have punished by the authorities;' or to 'direct the attention of the European governments to the policy pursued by the Canadian government.' Then he goes on there with the legal question again; I need not read that; he refers to counsel's opinion—all the rest of it refers to the legal question.

Mr. MACLEAN (Lunenburg).—What is the number of that file?

Mr. BARKER.—253 of 2614 C.

Then following out this contract there is a notice given by Mr. Colmer, of Lord Strathcona's office, on the 31st October, 1899, in these words: It is addressed to the various booking agents that have been working for the government before then.

'I am instructed to notify you that the policy heretofore in operation for the payment of a bonus on continental emigrants to Manitoba and the Northwest Territories is suspended for the present.'

Then this is addressed to the government agent, telling him it will be necessary to send that notice to Hamburg, Bremen, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Antwerp and Berlin, suspending all arrangements with their men.

Well, now, Mr. Cory, my object in reading that is to show you just about where these negotiations began. I would like to know whether you are able to tell us how we can get information as to who these people are. You are the deputy minister?

A. I do not know, unless you can get in from the High Commissioner, or from the company themselves.

Q. Is there no officer of your department who can give us that information?

A. I think not. I never heard of it, and never heard of any officer that has the information.

Mr. MACLEAN (Lunenburg).—Is it worth while finding out? Is there any particular reason why we should know?

Mr. BARKER.—Yes; we would like to know all that have been interested in that money which has been expended, from first to last.

Mr. MACLEAN (Lunenburg).—Why?

Mr. BARKER.—I want to know it as a matter of inquiry into these accounts.

Mr. MACLEAN (Lunenburg).—It does not matter, I think, much what one man may want. The question is: Does the committee want to know?

Mr. W. W. CORY.