

REPORT OF LIVERPOOL AGENT.

(MR. JOHN DYKE.)

15 WATER STREET,

LIVERPOOL, 31st December, 1889.

SIR,—I beg to submit my fourteenth annual report of the operations at this agency.

The following are the numbers and nationalities of the emigrants who have sailed from Liverpool during 1889 and a comparison with those of 1888 :—

	1888.	1889.	Decrease.
English.....	127,977	113,638	14,339
Scotch.....	3,391	1,888	1,503
Irish.....	12,025	9,113	2,912
Foreigners.....	92,377	68,852	23,525
Not described.....	5,436	5,405	31
Totals.....	241,206	198,896	42,310

or a decrease in the total emigration from Liverpool of $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

30,561 emigrants sailed direct to Canada, and of these 17,677 were carried by the Allan line, 8,261 by the Dominion line and 4,623 by the Beaver line.

The cabin passengers numbered 4,619 and the steerage 25,942 as against 4,268 cabin and 34,311 steerage in 1888. The decrease in the emigration from Liverpool direct to Canadian ports has, therefore, been about 20 per cent.

I have, as usual, done my best to prevent the emigration of an unsuitable class of emigrants to the Dominion, and it is admitted by our competitors and by the Imperial Government officials, the steamship companies and others, that the classes proceeding to the Dominion are far superior to those proceeding to the United States or to any other country. The number, to my regret, shows a marked falling off. This is to be attributed to several causes, one of them being that nearly every branch of trade has been well employed at good wages. According to the instructions of the High Commissioner, my operations have been confined principally to agricultural labourers, farmers and capitalists. The decrease in the rural population in this country, to which I have referred in previous reports, still continues—it being estimated that during the last fifteen years the number of agricultural labourers and small farmers has declined fifty per cent. Good agricultural labourers are becoming scarce on the continent also, for I notice from the press that in Prussia—which had at one time a greater plethora of agricultural labour than probably any other portion of Europe—a meeting of land owners and farmers at Stettin passed a resolution in favour of importing Chinese agricultural labour. The competition for good emigrants has been more keen during this season than at any period during the past ten years. Not only is the Argentine Republic in the field with an offer of free passages for 50,000 people from Northern Europe, with very handsome commissions to agents to secure parties, but the Mexican Government offers the following advantages:—A subsidy of \$50 for each person of twelve years old who has been settled in the colony six months, and in addition \$200 per annum for five years for each family, or \$40 per annum for five years for each person who is not a member of a family. Besides these payments, implements, machines, waggons and horses, and settlers' effects will be allowed to enter the country free of duty. I understand that the services of Professor Sheldon and Dr. Edmonds have been secured to proceed to Mexico, and they will shortly leave for that country for the purpose of writing up