

By Mr. Thoburn:

Q. What are the duties of those local agents who receive \$2 a head for immigrants? Are the immigrants sent out to them or have they to write to the Old Country for them?

A. I explained that in my address, and presented the whole scheme whereby the immigrant is booked from some point in England, Scotland or Ireland direct to the employment agent in this country.

By Mr. Sutherland:

Q. I have a statement of the number of men required by the local agents, a statement sent out by your Assistant Superintendant, in London, and I notice that of the 101 agents that you have in Ontario and Quebec only 39 of these ask for men?

A. There is a supplementary list, which I have handed in, dated 19th February, Circular No. 2. If you read the notice on that circular I think you will find it says that further information will be sent from time to time.

Q. This list is compiled, I suppose, at your office and sent over to your assistant in London?

A. He prints it and circularizes the agents.

Q. Is it not a fact that letters have been appearing in the British press from time to time from dissatisfied immigrants, complaining that booking agents are sending men out to these local agents knowing that this information is old and that there is no machinery available for placing these men on their arrival here. For instance you say 'William Atkin, Springfield, Ontario:—10 single experienced men, wages \$16 to \$22 per month; 5 single inexperienced men, wages \$12 to \$16 per month; 10 married experienced men with families, wages up to \$22 per month; 20 domestics, wages \$8 to \$12 per month.' Now you do not say whether these are wanted for a few months or for the year, or how it is. It is my experience that the immigrants want to know definitely if they are to be employed by the year or for how long, and the farmer also wants to know the kind of men he is getting. If he is a dairyman he wants to be sure that the class of help he is getting is going to be of some use. Another man may be in the live stock business, and another kind of man might suit him. But under your system of sending these men out from Great Britain on this meagre information how are you going to satisfy them? Could you not do that better from a central office. You have advices of information in your office stating exactly what the farmer requires and you could divide these men up and give more general satisfaction than by having them sent out from the Old Country. My experience of the booking agents is that they have no faith in this system and the fact that the farming delegates have been mostly from western Canada has certainly had a great influence in preventing Ontario from getting satisfactory men. If you had a reasonable proportion of delegates from Ontario better results would be obtained, and the province of Ontario would get better men and more of them. But there is that fear that the immigrant will not be properly placed and if you had a central agency you would overcome a great deal of the dissatisfaction of the farmers and the immigrant would be better satisfied. You have adopted that system at Winnipeg and in the eastern provinces, and why it is not done in Ontario is something beyond my comprehension?

A. The conditions are absolutely different in Ontario and the eastern townships of Quebec from those of any other part of the Dominion. Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have their ocean ports where the immigrants land. At Winnipeg you have the gateway of the west, where all the people change cars and are distributed. The farmers send in their applications direct to the office. Of course there are a great many who do not go near the office because 50 per cent of the immigrants arriving here are going to friends. Having friends in the country they never appear at any of the immigration offices except for inspection at the port of landing. Now,