

In the months of June and July, 1866, a Departmental enquiry was made into the same subject, and the result was again to prove the total incorrectness of those returns, and the extreme difficulties, if not impossibilities, encountered by our Agents in the way of collecting correct information.

The almost only basis of such calculations is the mere *ipse dixit* of the immigrants, who all think that it is their immediate interest to represent themselves as intending settlers for Canada. Another great source of error arises from the fact that quite a number, counted as having settled in Canada, after a short sojourn in the country, leave it to emigrate again towards the neighboring States.

The system which has been in existence for furthering and aiding immigration to Canada has not been productive of satisfactory results, neither is it, in the opinion of your Committee, adapted to be so under the law which has placed the public lands under the control of the Provincial Legislatures.

In order to avoid a conflict of authority and to secure the efficiency of any general immigration scheme, it is necessary that there should be an understanding, and, consequently, co-operative action, between the general and the Provincial Legislatures. In the meantime, and before any such concurrent action can be agreed upon, your Committee recommend that such care and assistance be extended to emigrants arriving sea-ward as may be necessary.

Your Committee recommend a discontinuance of the Agency at Wolverhampton, in England, and such a reduction of the staff at the Quebec, Toronto, and other agencies as can be made consistently with the recommendation in the preceding paragraph, with a view to the early re-organization of these agencies.

As the success of the immigrant depends greatly upon his willingness and ability to adapt himself to the conditions on which success is alone to be expected, your Committee suggest that great caution and circumspection should guide any public effort to induce persons to immigrate. While Canada offers health, prosperity, and freedom to the industrious laborer and mechanic, she cannot, safely, assume any responsibilities on behalf of persons whose occupations or habits have been unfavorable to self-reliance or to the practical exercise of intelligent effort.

Your Committee have received a number of letters containing suggestions on the subject of Immigration, and offers, on the part of the writers, to place their services at the disposal of the Government, as writers or lecturers on the resources of Canada, in Europe. It is not incumbent upon your Committee to express any opinion in reference to the suggestions themselves, or to the gentlemen by whom they are made; for, if the views to which your Committee have given expression, in this report, are in accordance with those entertained by your Honorable House, it will be the obvious duty of the Government, in conjunction with the Provincial Governments, to adapt the agencies in Canada and elsewhere to existing circumstances.

The prospective acquisition by Canada of the fertile lands in the valley of the Saskatchewan and its tributaries is, no doubt, interesting thousands who purpose to migrate from the Parent Country to one of its dependencies. In the present state of the relations between the North-West Territory and Canada no precise plan for its settlement can be recommended or even considered by your Committee, but they submit that, without any unnecessary delay, so much of these lands as are fitted for agricultural purposes should be made accessible, through British territory, and offered on such terms as will be attractive to a class of settlers who desire to enjoy the fruits of their industry under the security of British laws and institutions.

Coincident with the construction of the Intercolonial Railway a large quantity of land hitherto inaccessible will be available for settlement. During its progress the laborer will earn the means of sustaining himself in the early stages of his settlement. The chief drawback to settlement, hitherto, has been the difficulty of obtaining employment at a convenient distance, and then of conveying produce to market over a long line of almost impassable road. On the line and within the influence of the Intercolonial Railroad these difficulties will not exist; therefore your Committee urge upon the Government of the Dominion the necessity of co-operating with the Provincial Governments, through whose territory the road will pass, in the adoption of a well considered and liberal policy with regard to settlement.