

MR. WILSON.—How do they work without means?

MR. LARIVIÈRE.—They borrow them and have bees and are loaned implements by neighbours.

MR. WILSON.—The discussion on this matter arose at the last meeting of the Committee by a gentleman here being anxious that we should rush this matter and get in a lot of immigrants right away. The question arises what would you do after a large number came into this country without means, if you settled them on the prairies by themselves. How are they going to make a little for the first year or year and a half? I cannot understand how those who have no money and no employment can live in large numbers without means.

MR. LARIVIÈRE.—Of course, if they have large families to look after it is difficult for them, but single people take their homesteads and they go away from time to time where there is work. There is always work, more or less: if not in the immediate vicinity they can go a distance. They get free tickets on the railroad. They can always get work to earn money. Of course, you cannot expect that the whole township will be settled by paupers. Some of the men will have means.

MR. WILSON.—That is the point.

MR. LARIVIÈRE.—They will be mixed up, and those who have means will keep the others, and the people are very open-handed, as I said a little while ago. When they have very poor settlers among them, they keep one another. They work like brothers. It is a good spirit, that which exists in Manitoba.

MR. ROOME.—I think we are all agreed that we want immigration in the west, and the question arises, shall we give assisted passages or not? I oppose the Government advocating paid passages, and I think the majority of the Committee will bear me out. We are not opposed to poor men, but we are opposed to the class of men who won't make good citizens after they come here. We don't propose paying them a bounty for coming here. We are willing to assist good men to make good citizens. How are we going to reach them? My idea will be to advertise our country well. I believe a good deal can be done in the old country, but I believe a lot of the immigration agencies in the older Provinces, which are now done away with, were useless. Let us advertise the country, and when immigrants come out here let us take care of them. It is the duty of the Government to see that these immigrants are properly placed, and we will encourage them. Then they will correspond with their neighbours in the old country, and knowing that they will be taken care of when they get here, they will strive to get the means to land on this shore, and those who will strive to pay their passage, when they get here will make good citizens. Shall we advertise and bring out that class, or all kinds? I am opposed to paid passages to all kinds of immigrants.

MR. DAVIN.—There is no difference of opinion between us, apparently. We all want desirable settlers. Out in the North-west we don't want clerks or mechanics. We only want farmers and farm labourers. That is the only class we care for, so we are all agreed on that.

MR. ARMSTRONG.—As I understand the matter now the Government are anxious to adopt the best policy to encourage and induce immigration; and the reason why this committee meets and expresses its views on it, is simply to endeavour if possible to aid the Government in formulating a policy. That is one reason why I am anxious that Mr. Burgess should be here to-day. There was a very interesting discussion at the last meeting of the Committee, and for that one reason I wanted to have the discussion carried on, as to the best mode of inducing immigrants to come to the country and as to the class of immigrants that ought to be induced to come to the country. My own view of the matter is simply this: The first and most essential point is to see that you get the right men. The next thing is to see that after you have got him you keep him and settle him and induce him to stay, and I say without hesitation it will pay the country to pay a high price to get over some of the men I speak of. I think we can appeal to our own experience.