

endeavoured to do has been to encourage quality, not quantity. I called attention in my annual report of last year to the extraordinary proportion of the immigration of the United States which never goes beyond the boundary of the State of New York. If I remember rightly, it was 45 per cent, which means that a very large number of people who are reaching that country from the other side of the Atlantic, are clerks and shopkeepers, men of the kind for whom neither we nor they really have any room. I might say that if we were simply anxious to get numbers from the other side of the Atlantic, it would be, in my opinion, a comparatively easy thing to do. However, we discourage people of that kind, and offer encouragement to none but people who are likely to engage in farming if they come.

GOVERNMENT'S CAREFUL PROVISION OF AMPLE MEANS FOR SECURING THE HEALTH, COMFORT AND GENERAL PROTECTION OF IMMIGRANTS, UPON ARRIVAL IN CANADA, UNTIL SETTLED.

On this side of the Atlantic, too, we pay out of this limited appropriation the expenses of what I submit is a very thorough system of taking care of the immigrant and seeing that he is properly dealt with, from the time he arrives in Canada until he is finally located on his homestead in Manitoba or the Territories, or employment of some description has been found for him, as his circumstances may call for. First of all, there is the immigration agency at Halifax. Unfortunately, about a year ago the building used for the reception of the immigrants on their arrival at that port was, with the buildings of the Intercolonial Railway at the deep water terminus, burned down, and although the Department of Public Works and the Department of Railways have together been doing their best to have a new building ready for our purposes as quickly as possible, the work of reconstruction has not yet been completed. Meantime, by the generous co-operation of the Intercolonial Railway authorities, arrangements have been made which permit incoming immigrants to land with the least possible inconvenience and discomfort.

All the salaries and expenses of various kinds connected with this agency are charged to the general appropriation for immigration, as are the salaries and travelling expenses of the interpreters at Quebec.

It would be hard, I submit, to suggest any improvement upon the methods adopted for the reception of immigrants at Quebec. Our building at that place, on the Louise Embankment, is a model of cleanliness, order and comfort, and Mr. Doyle, the agent, himself a most efficient man, of over 27 years' experience, is aided by a capable staff of interpreters and guardians, including a matron whose sole business it is to see to the comfort of the female immigrants and to care for such as may not be able to leave the immigrant station immediately. On the very next occasion when Parliament is sitting during the season when the navigation of the St. Lawrence is open, I respectfully submit that it would be highly in the interests of the country, and a matter of great importance to the Committee, that its members should visit Quebec in a body, and witness for themselves the efficient way in which the immigrants are handled. It may be pointed out in this connection, that at both Halifax and Quebec, arrangements are made by the department for furnishing to the new arrivals all necessaries in the way of food, at a schedule price which is agreed upon between the caterer and the Department, a price, by the way, which is before approval, submitted to the leading merchants at both points, and certified to be the regular minimum prices for the articles of food included. Facilities are also offered for the exchange of European money into Canadian currency by a broker who is specially selected by the Government for that purpose, and between whom and the Government certain rates of exchange have been agreed upon in advance. It may be mentioned here, that the stipulated price lists of provisions and tables giving the relative values of various European coins and Canadian money are printed on large cards in various languages and posted up all over the immigrant halls, for the information of the immigrants, so that they may be in a position to assure themselves that they are not being taken advantage of.