

Q. That is the amount that you pay?

A. That we pay. We keep an open account with each booking agent.

By Mr. Sproule:

Q. Was there any overlapping of accounts, any instance where the booking agent was paid more than once?

A. On the same man?

Q. On the same man?

A. No.

By Mr. Heron:

Q. How would you prevent that?

A. Only one man issues the ticket and that is the booking agent who makes the claim. Where immigrants, upon whom bonus has been paid, are afterwards found to have gone to the United States, or have been returned to Great Britain as undesirable, or for any reason, we deduct that amount from the next payment to the booking agent. Occasionally we deduct from the bonus paid to booking agents the cost of sending a man back to England. We had a case the other day where a man had been sent out to Nelson, B.C., under misrepresentations. That man produced evidence that I thought was satisfactory, and we returned him to the country that he came from and charged the cost to the booking agent with whom we had an open account. In other cases where they have misrepresented things to immigrants we have their licenses cancelled through representations to the British Board of Trade.

By Mr. McIntyre (Strathcona):

Q. In the British Isles booking agents must register and take out a license?

A. Yes, they must get a license from the Board of Trade.

MAJORITY OF BOOKING AGENTS IN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS.

By Mr. Christie:

Q. Do you urge upon your agents that they ought to try and attract agricultural immigrants?

A. It is only to the agricultural class that we appeal.

Q. Do you have agents in the agricultural districts?

A. The great bulk of these booking agents are in agricultural districts.

Q. My reason for asking that is that we do not get the right class of people?

A. Only about 7 per cent of the population of Great Britain is rural.

Mr. CHRISTIE.—A neighbour of mine went to get help and ran across an immigrant who was a likely looking fellow. He was asked what wages he would want, and said that he would require \$75 a month to go on a farm. My neighbour told him he had made a mistake.

By Mr. Savoie:

Q. You cannot take that as an example?

A. No. I have made the statement to the press, to different people and to immigrants themselves, that if any immigrant can produce to me any evidence that he was sent out to this country under misrepresentations, I will not only pay his passage back to Great Britain, but assist him in the prosecution of the booking agent who induced him to come out. The Merchant Shipping Act of Great Britain is very definite on that question. However, I have never seen the man yet, when it came down to a question of furnishing evidence, that could produce it. I think, on the whole, the booking agents are very careful in the statements they make to immigrants.