

Q. Are they doing their work satisfactorily?—A. I believe they are. When people are going up from Ontario, in cases where I think it necessary, I give cards of introduction to our agent at Winnipeg, so that on arrival, information may be had as regards land or labour.

Q. Do you get letters of enquiry from abroad?—A. Yes; but the great bulk of my correspondence is from Eastern Canada, especially Ontario.

*By Dr. Sproule :*

Q. Do these agents act conjointly, or is there any conflict?—A. I do not think there is any conflict. They are all interested in getting the people settled in the country in some way. A few years ago a great many of the municipalities sent down agents to get settlers, and there were frequent conflicts between those agents; but during the last year, there were very few of these agents, and I do not think there are any this year. There are simply Government and railway agents.

Q. Have they only one man to give information, or have they men to locate settlers as well?—A. We have two men in connection with our office.

Q. I mean, all these offices. The Canadian Pacific Railway has an office, the Dominion Government an office, and the Manitoba Government an office, and in connection with each of these there are men to go out and locate settlers?—A. There are.

Q. Have you any knowledge of the number in connection with our office?—A. We have two in connection with the Manitoba office.

Q. Do you know how many the Dominion Government has?—A. I know that agents constantly travel out with parties.

Q. You think it is necessary to have these locating agents?—A. Yes; I think one of the most necessary things is to make the settler comfortable.

*By Mr. Hesson :*

Q. Is Mr. Metcalfe there?—A. Yes.

Q. Is he an active man?—A. He is an active man, but I think it is unfortunate that the chief officer of the intelligence service should be away at this particular time. I believe Mr. Metcalfe is a good agent.

Q. Who is the chief officer there?—A. I understand Mr. Metcalfe.

Hon. Mr. CARLING:—No; Mr. Bennett is.

*By Mr. McNeill :*

Q. Is it your observation that when they get our people from the Maritime Provinces over in the United States that they ship them off free?—A. I have no actual information; but I should be inclined to think—in fact, I feel quite certain it is not. I should have heard of it if it were so.

*By Mr. Trow :*

Q. When you go out with those excursionists or intending settlers to Winnipeg, are your duties then performed—that is, are your duties finished when you land them in Winnipeg?—A. Yes. Of course, we turn them over to the agents up there; then we come back to Ontario and look for some more.

Q. The agents of the Manitoba Government or the agents of the Dominion?—A. Both.

Q. The Manitoba Government has no lands at its disposal?—A. No.

Q. Is there any record kept in Winnipeg of the lands for disposal as homesteads for actual settlers?—A. Yes; we keep such information in our intelligence office.

Q. They are referred to the land agencies in various parts of the North-West and Manitoba. Do they make returns to the head office in Winnipeg of the lands that have been disposed of or what are for disposal?—A. I believe they make returns every week, but I am not quite sure. They make returns every week to the Land Commissioner's office in Winnipeg.

Q. So the settler can get all requisite information in Winnipeg, without travelling to other points?—A. Yes; what I generally recommend a man to do, going up, is this: I give him an introduction to our intelligence office and then they go to the Land Commissioner's office and find out in which of these land office, districts there is the most available homestead land, and then they go direct to the local land office,