

that will build up the country, any more than they will build up the country from which they came. We want to interest these people in the new country and simply leave it to them to show them that there is an opportunity to improve their conditions, and that is all they require.

Miss WILEMAN.—The steamship companies give a bonus of two and a half dollars in addition to the Government bonus, and every single booking agent charges a pretty big fee to the individual.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—How do you mean he charges a fee?

Miss WILEMAN.—He takes a fee from the men or women when they agree with him to come out to Canada from England.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—Can you give me any case?

Miss WILEMAN.—I have knowledge of cases in England. It is a common practice. I have had poor women who have been charged £5 for the services of the booking agents, who said they were going to put them in positions out here.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—They should lose their license.

Miss WILEMAN.—You have put the matter in a very conservative way, Mr. Watters.

Mr. WATTERS.—Yes, I have tried to do so. I have talked the matter over with Mr. Scott, and the other officers and he assured me they were keeping a watchful eye on the agencies, and if the agents violate the Immigration Act they are going to come down on them. At a recent convention in Montreal we had a special committee appointed to deal with immigration, and I am sorry the chairman of that committee is in Vancouver instead of in Ottawa, because he has made a special study of this phase of the question, and he could give you information which I can not supply you with. The recommendation is as follows:—

“Your Committee recommends that the Executive Committee be instructed to press for the abolition of bonuses to immigration agents, believing that the removing of the element of private profit is in the interest both of the Dominion and the intending immigrant.

“The immigration committee has discussed the question of the immigration of women and girls to Canada from the United Kingdom and Europe. These people under present conditions arrive with a very inadequate idea of industrial and social conditions here, while the dangers to which they are subject are evident to all. Your committee is of the opinion that the immigration of women and girls should only be permitted under direct Government control.”

Mr. ROBERTSON.—In other words, your Committee recommends that a respectable girl living in England with money, who wants to come to Canada, would be refused permission, unless she came under Government auspices?

Mr. WATTERS.—Exactly, to take care of the girl, and those coming as domestic servants.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—How long are they going to look after this girl who is unable to take care of herself?

Miss WILEMAN.—I am going to help you out now. Here comes in the Labour Bureau, with our Lady Superintendent at the head. She watches and keeps in touch with the girls and women permanently.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—What hours do they watch?

Miss WILEMAN.—It is not a question of watching them in their work, but when they are out of work.