

6 EDWARD VII., A. 1906

A. The percentage we pay on is very small. I do not suppose they all would really come—

Q. And these people are people that do not speak English. They speak through an interpreter?

A. Yes.

Q. And no matter how long that continues, how large the number may be, you pay it and you take no means of checking whether they are of the agriculture or servant girl class?

A. Further than our agent's report at the ocean port.

Q. And he simply takes the word of the man himself?

A. Of the man himself, yes.

Q. That is all you do, then, or do you do anything more?

A. There is a great deal done with immigrants?

Q. I mean for the purpose of investigation?

A. Each man is asked his name, the amount of money he has, his age, whether he can read and write, his nationality, the country of his birth and whether he is married or single.

Q. That is for your own statistical purposes?

A. And for the preparation of this account.

Q. Nothing else towards checking the fact that the company was entitled to £1 or whatever it may be on that man?

A. That is as far as we go.

Q. That is all you do?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you make any investigation as to whether the \$15,000 is expended by this syndicate in the work?

A. Once a year they file with the department a statement of their expenditures, together with the vouchers, copies of their advertising matter, and I think copies of their advertisements.

Q. Have you got any of these statements?

A. I have been ordered to produce them before the Agriculture Committee next Wednesday. They will be produced on Wednesday.

Q. Do you say that at the end of every year you have had evidence that \$15,000 was spent.

A. Since I have been in the department, yes.

Q. The last three years?

A. Yes.

Q. What sort of vouchers do you obtain?

A. From memory, I think they are vouchers for printing—the usual stamped voucher that you get in the old country, in that shape, and they render a statement.

Q. You have been satisfied by what you consider proper evidence that \$15,000 a year was expended?

A. Yes, I think so; I think they spend a great deal more than that some years.

Q. Sometimes?

A. Yes.

Q. And it is sent on to the Audit Office?

A. No, they are kept in our office.

Q. They have never been audited?

A. Well, I do not know, except by our clerks.

Q. I mean in the Audit Office?

A. No.

Q. I suppose that is so. I understand from that they don't consider it part of their duties. Will you tell me why this account has been kept open so long?