

between the Government and the Steamship Companies the £4 5s. rate becomes practically a *general rate* of emigrants intending to settle in Canada; yet, nevertheless, it is looked upon, and will always be regarded by the emigrating public in England, as a Government *assisted passage rate*, which in a certain sense commits the Government to the assumption that there is a reasonable expectation that the persons going at that rate will find somewhere in Canada a fair prospect of earning a living. The rate is open to all who are willing to sign a document attesting that they intend to reside in Canada, the only reservation being that the persons are not sick, blind, criminal, or otherwise undesirable. The Steamship Companies are permitted freely to book passengers who will subscribe this statement at this rate, and it is impossible by any private means to put any check upon this emigration. With the emigration of agricultural labourers at the £2 5s. rate it is otherwise; because in this case a special application and an attestation by union officials or by some other trustworthy person, that the applicant is a *bona fide* agricultural labourer, is necessary; and by a simple circular to the Government Agents and to the Steamship Companies the Agent-General might stop the emigration. The apprehension which was expressed that this letter would seriously or permanently injure the chances of future emigration was unnecessary. The action was taken by me on full consideration, based upon a large experience in dealing with the classes particularly affected; and while, on the one hand, it operated, as it was intended to operate, as a temporary check, on the other hand, it indicated on the part of the Agent of the Government in this country, a desire to deal fairly with the working classes, which I have since received assurances that they appreciate; and I am certain that in future they will be the better inclined to accept any statements of the prosperity of Canada and of inducements to emigrate, emanating from me personally. There is no doubt that this letter also had an effect in stopping the formation of a number of large parties of agricultural labourers which it was intended to send out after the harvest. Their arrival in Canada would have been attended with grievous discomfort to themselves and would have placed the Government in an extremely responsible position. I am glad to say that I believe the postponement will not lose us any considerable number of good emigrants, and that several large parties may be expected to leave by the earliest spring steamers, provided that the Government continues the same aid which it afforded this season.