

"Very few foreigners, if any, will be employed on the Toronto Harbour Improvement work. In the case of Herron Brothers, sub-contractors, in particular, not a single man who is not Canadian born will be given work. This firm has a large part of the contract.

"We find that on work of this kind Canadians are by far the best men," said R. B. Herron. 'Experience on other large contracts has taught me that the Canadian is the most adaptable and most valuable man. Others are more or less of a nuisance'

'That doesn't mean Englishmen and Scotchmen?' he was asked.

'Oh yes it does. The average Old Countryman who finds employment on work of this kind is not suited to it.'

Mr. ROBERTSON.—I do not think there is much doubt but that in all classes of employment Canadians are preferred to any others.

The CHAIRMAN.—What is the use of bringing people into this country if there is no work for them?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—They have had work so far.

The CHAIRMAN.—The cities are full of unemployed, and it is that class of people who are unemployed.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—It is a very recent state of affairs. There are many miles of railway that would not have been built, many thousand feet of lumber that would not have been cut, and many square miles of land that would not have been cultivated, if it had not been for this influx of population.

The CHAIRMAN.—That is population from the Continent.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—And from the British Isles. Take the Lloydminster Settlement as an illustration.

The CHAIRMAN.—The Englishman makes a good farmer when he knows anything about farming, and those who settled at Lloydminster understood farming.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—Of the homestead entries in the year just closed there were 3,894 homesteads taken by English immigrants.

The CHAIRMAN.—Out of how many immigrants?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—Of course the majority of them stay in the East.

Hon. Mr. JAFFRAY.—You will find in Ontario, settlements that were originally settled by weavers coming from a particular district, and they have made very successful and excellent farmers and good citizens. The same remark applies to other occupations as well.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUCC.—Do you mean during the last few years?

Hon. Mr. JAFFRAY.—No, when they settled in those places. I think it is a great deal easier matter for them to settle now in the West than it was for them to settle in Ontario, because they had no knowledge of using an axe and they had to hew out a place to live in before they could make any settlement.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—In the year just closed there were 5,200 who took up homesteads. On the basis of three to a family that would be 15,600 who actually went on homesteads.

The CHAIRMAN.—Out of how many?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—The British immigration was large: it was 142,000.

The CHAIRMAN.—and 15,600 of them went on homesteads.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—In the West. The majority stayed in the East.

The CHAIRMAN.—What would be the percentage out of 140,000 in the British Isles? Take 15,000 out of that, what would the percentage be?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—About 11 per cent.

The CHAIRMAN.—And 17 per cent were assisted.