
REPORT.

The Select Standing Committee on Immigration* and Colonization respectfully submit their second and final Report:

On the subject of immigration, in relation to the number of arrivals and cost of the service during the last calendar year, the Committee examined Mr. John Lowe, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.

They found by the evidence given by him that the numbers of immigrants entering Canada during the year 1883 were remarkable for their increase over previous years, being, in fact, the largest ever recorded.

The total number of the arrivals, that is, of immigrants intending to settle in Canada, and immigrant passengers who made use of the facilities offered by Canadian routes for the purpose of proceeding to the Western States, was 206,893 against 193,150 in 1882, and 117,016 in 1881, and 85,850 in 1880.

As respects the number of immigrant settlers simply, the figures for the year were unprecedentedly large, being a total of 133,303 as against 112,458 in the previous year, 47,991 in 1881 and 38,505 in 1880.

The immigrant settlers during the year included 34,987 who entered from the United States, making entries of settlers' effects at the Custom Houses, the names of the settlers, the numbers of persons in the family and the nationality being registered in all these entries; these figures being thus obtained by an exact registration, are absolute and show a very considerable movement from the United States to Canada, owing, doubtless, to two causes, one being ready employment in manufactories and on railway works, and the other the attraction of our lands in the North-West.

One feature of these entries with settlers' effects is the number of Germans, viz.: 14,640. It is found that the Germans make very valuable settlers, and when they successfully settle are sure to be followed by their friends; this nucleus is therefore considered to be important.

There were also amongst these entries 11,580 Canadians, these being returns of persons who had previously emigrated to the United States, and 1,798 American citizens who have immigrated into Canada.

The Committee made special inquiry respecting the assisted Irish immigration during the year, and they found that the total number of these immigrants was 6,359; part of these were assisted by Mr. Tuke's Committee, and part by the Irish Emigration Commissioners from the districts in the south and south-west of Ireland.

It appears that a large majority of all these immigrants have settled in the Dominion and done well; a portion of them, however, were unsuitable for immigration to Canada, and have received assistance during the winter from the local charities in Toronto. These comprise 106 male adults, 117 female adults, and 455 children, a total of 678; none of these appear to have been sent out by Mr. Tuke's Committee, but from the Workhouse Unions in Ireland.

The Committee find that the Government of the Province of Ontario agreed to receive these Irish assisted immigrants and find work for them, the Dominion Government agreeing to furnish them with assisted passages and guidance on their arrival.

The undertaking to settle this class of immigrants in Canada cannot be said to be a failure, in view of the large majority who have done well.

It should be pointed out that whilst the persons who received assistance during the winter were slightly over 10 per cent, of the whole of this assisted immigration, they formed a very much larger proportion of those who came from the Workhouse Unions alone.