

in Alberta you would understand the situation. A man would come in and with perfect honesty say that he had not had experience as a farmer or farm labourer in the Old Country, he might not have relations here or at home to whom he could look for assistance,—and he must make money. There was no particular trade that he could fit into in the town, and the only thing open to him was occupation in the country. We have sent out man after man under such circumstances and they have come back because they could not tackle the conditions. Great reform will come out of this Labour Bureau when everything is organized and standardized, that is what we look forward to. There will be a magnificent system of training men and women in the Old Country when they know the class of men and women that is required in Canada.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC.—Do you not believe that they would soon forget that training?

Miss WILEMAN.—No, I do not think so, but the farmer does not want to waste his time training people who know nothing about farm labour. That is the cry not only of the farmer but of the manufacturer—‘I do not want to waste my time training up workers who have to be employed in the industries of this country. I want men who know something about the work.’

Mr. ROBERTSON.—Half the applications we have for farmers at the present time are for inexperienced men.

Miss WILEMAN.—In the West it is very different.

Hon. Mr. JAFFRAY.—You suggest that the labourers should be trained in the Old Country before they come to Canada. Do you suggest that there should be colleges for the purpose?

Miss WILEMAN.—Farms should be turned into training colonies—that is to say large farms should be taken over and the men there would do the entire work of the farm, the same with the women. That is what is required rather than technical training in colleges, but you want direct work on the farm from 6 in the morning until 9 o'clock at night. Then you know how to grapple with conditions here.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC.—But who would train them in the Old Country?

Miss WILEMAN.—That would be done, of course, by the British Government. Sir George Askwith was as much interested in what he saw here as he was with what he saw in the Old Country and I said to him, ‘Unless you give them, before they leave the Old Country, a test as to their fitness for the work and some training in farm work you cannot promise the employers out here that they will make good.’

Hon. Mr. JAFFRAY.—I think one of the great difficulties about agricultural employment in this country is that the labourers are only employed for a short time of the year, and in most cases there is no provision for providing work for them during the winter and very few farms have accommodation for men, especially for married men. There ought to be some provision made for them. There should be cottages for married men.

Miss WILEMAN.—Yes, to foster home-building.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.—There is nothing in the law to prevent the incoming of labourers from cities and towns of Great Britain or elsewhere if they have the amount of money required by law and they are persons in a healthy condition.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—No, if they are healthy and comply with the other requirements they come in.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.—They do not need to declare that they will settle on farms. Of course they can come into the country if they meet the requirements of the law.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—If they meet the requirements of the law they are as free to come in as we are.

The CHAIRMAN.—Here is an extract from the Winnipeg Voice:—