

A. They are advised to treat Canada as a whole and to speak of it as a whole, but I suppose it is quite natural that a farm delegate from Ontario would only speak of his own province.

Q. You have an inspector of local distributing agents in Ontario?

A. We have two.

Q. And they report from time to time as to the fitness of the men you have employed as agents?

A. Yes.

Q. And you say you have found it work out quite satisfactorily?

A. Yes.

Q. And the system of distributing through local agents you say is better than having the men distributed through a central point?

A. Yes, because a great many who go to the cities never reach the farm.

Q. That is because there is not a fair distribution made of the immigrants?

A. The immigrant is a free agent, he can go wherever he pleases.

Q. Is it not a fact that a great many counties in Ontario did not receive one man from your branch at all?

A. I imagine that may be so, some agents are not satisfactory.

Q. No, but take whole counties, one after the other, they have not received a single man from your agents?

A. I could not say as to that.

Q. You have here a list of 83 agents in Ontario, and of that number 33 did not place a single man last year?

A. Yes, and some of them placed a hundred.

Q. Yes, several hundreds, I believe in one county alone there were nearly 700 men placed. A. We will take now the county of Halton. I see that in 1907 the agent there placed 112, in 1908 he placed 109, in 1910 he placed 102, and in 1911 he placed 179.

Q. Yes, and in the county of Bruce how many were placed?

Mr. HENDERSON.—Yes, the agent in Halton placed 179 last year, but the poor fellow will not place any more, he died a short time ago.

Mr. SCOTT.—Is that so, I am sorry for it.

*By Mr. Sutherland:*

Q. How do you account for your system having worked out so satisfactorily in several counties and so unsatisfactorily in others? Take for instance in Bruce, in 1910, there were 350 and in 1911 there were 417, and just a little farther on in the county of Dufferin, notwithstanding the fact that that county has gone back 3,476 in the last ten years you did not place a single man there?

A. As I understand the business it all depends on the activity of the men appointed.

Q. But is it not the duty of the department to see that these men do the work for which they are appointed.

*By Mr. Morphy:*

Q. Would the department keep a man on year after year unless he placed men in his district?

A. Unless I received instructions from the government to change him.

Q. How many men who have been on the list for several years have never placed a man and still remain on the list?

A. I have the list here.

Q. Can you answer that offhand?

A. No, I could not do that.