

the name of Mr. Hickman, and Mr. Hickman got a year to go over the province to make himself thoroughly familiar with it before he went to the old country. Mr. Hickman travelled all over New Brunswick, took hundreds of photographs of the country, which he had fixed on slides so that he could exhibit them with a lantern when giving his lectures. Mr. Hickman made himself acquainted with improved farms that were for sale in the province; he took photographs of the buildings and some of the fields, and in that way he was prepared to deal with the better class of intending emigrants who wanted to get improved farms in Canada. Mr. Preston says that Mr. Hickman has been a great success. He writes in his report:

Mr. Hickman has been meeting with considerable success in inducing a most desirable class of immigrants into New Brunswick; that is, young men with means, or whose relatives are willing to advance a considerable sum of money with a view of getting them lands in the more populated parts of Canada. He has succeeded in getting attention at his meetings and has incited an interest in New Brunswick in marked contrast with the almost utter failure of meetings that have been held in many localities in the interests of the Dominion.

Now, Sir, why has Mr. Hickman been able to attract the attention of the people of the old country, more than have the agents of the Dominion government. I think the reason is very obvious. Mr. Hickman was better equipped for the work. He had taken the time and the trouble to make himself perfectly familiar with the business he was going to do and perfectly familiar with the province he was trying to induce emigrants to come to. Mr. Preston appeared before the Committee on Agriculture last year and in his evidence he said, with reference to Mr. Jury:

It has been very seldom, I have been told, that at these meetings there would be more than possibly a dozen or fifteen or twenty children, with perhaps a half dozen or less, half a dozen being the maximum, of adults that would be present at a lecture about Canada.

That shows what Mr. Jury's lectures have been, for if he could induce only half a dozen grown-up people to attend, they could not have been very instructive. They were looked on, Mr. Preston says, more as outings for Sunday school children than as lectures to induce people to come to Canada.

Last year Mr. Preston said that he was going to try to get some Boers to come to our North-west. He thought they would make good settlers and would be glad to get away from South Africa. At that time I gave as my opinion that we did not want any of that kind of people, that we did not want any people who were disloyal and had an unfavourable idea of the British flag or British institutions.

Mr. Preston has now got a new notion in his head. He wants to form a company

with a capital of two or three million pounds to promote immigration, and he wants the interest on that amount guaranteed for twenty-five years by the Imperial and colonial governments. In addition to that, he wants a bonus given by each of the colonies for the immigrants in proportion to the number it gets. In this way he says you could induce the young men who are wasting their time around the cities and towns of the old country to come to Canada and make good settlers. I would say, for the information of Mr. Preston and the government, that if they want to go into that kind of work, there are in all the cities and larger towns of Canada plenty of that class of young men who, if they could be induced to go and settle on the lands of the North-west, would make better settlers than any of the same class we could get from the old country.

Mr. Preston has also been along the coasts of the Black Sea, and he has there met a tribe of people whom he is anxious to bring to this country. So far as I am concerned, I would like to have a little more information about those people before holding out any inducements for them to come to Canada, for we have already had an experience that has not been very satisfactory or profitable with reference to bringing in strangers that we knew nothing about.

There has been a great deal of talk about assisted passages, and some of the colonies have tried to promote immigration in that way; but I believe all the Australian colonies except Western Australia have abandoned the giving of assisted passages to immigrants. I will read a short extract from the Australian Handbook for 1900, with regard to the kind of people they must be in order to get assistance to go to Western Australia:

The class eligible (for assisted passages).—The classes at present eligible for assisted passages are: Farmers and agriculturists, who must be possessed of some small capital, and who should be under forty-five years of age (and, if married, their wives and families). The amount required in each case will be decided by the agent general, and must be deposited with him. A single man is required to deposit not less than £100, a married couple not less than £150, and for each child over twelve years of age, £25. The deposit is repaid to the immigrants immediately after arrival in the colony. Each adult immigrant will be granted £10 towards his passage money, and £5 for every child between one and twelve years of age. Single women or widows without children, not exceeding thirty-five years of age, are also eligible.

The nominees must be in the habit of working at one of the callings mentioned above, and must in accepting an assisted passage under these regulations do so with the intention of working in one of these occupations in the colony. They must be sober, industrious, of good moral character, in good health, free from all mental and bodily defects, within the ages specified (excepting when specially approved), appear physically capable of labour and have been vaccinated or had the smallpox.

In 1897 there were 40 males and 140 females,

Mr. WILSON.