

APPENDIX No. 2

Mr. McINTYRE (Strathcona).—That report was up before and it was shown that the Ontario government themselves were making very little restrictions. They were aiding the Salvation Army and other charitable institutions which were bringing out a pauper population.

Mr. BLAIN.—What other institutions?

Mr. McINTYRE (Strathcona).—There is the Church Army. If the member for Peel will only look up the estimates of the Ontario government for 1907 he will find that they paid thousands of dollars to these societies; but here they take the report of the jails and they do not designate the time that those people have been in the country. I may say that the medical officer of the Immigration Department took occasion to visit the prisons and asylums of Ontario and asked those very same officers who made that report to point out where the great hardship was entailed on the province by means of immigration, and according to the report of the officer I refer to, the charges were not substantiated.

Mr. MONK.—He only spoke of trachoma on that occasion.

Mr. McINTYRE (Strathcona).—We will have him here if the committee wishes. I say that the men in Ontario who made that report do not make restrictions on immigration. I want to say this with regard to the medical examination. I have had occasion to visit the ports, at my own expense, to ascertain the kind of medical inspection carried on. I went through the examination for the experience and I passed through as an immigrant.

Mr. SPROULE.—How long did it take you?

Mr. McINTYRE (Strathcona).—Not very long. I asked the doctor how long it would take him to size up my physical characteristics generally. Would he strip me off to find out whether I was an able-bodied man or would he take me on appearances. I asked the doctor if he would submit those people to indignities. Would he have those people actually stripped. Does he know that one of the very best things for Canadian passenger shipping is the fact that the Americans are putting so many frills on their examination. Does he know that the reason why so much passenger traffic is coming into Canadian channels is because immigrants do not want to pass the American immigration examination. Now I do not think we should do anything more than what is sufficient. I will agree with any man in this House in doing what is efficient in the way of examination, but when a number of able-bodied people come along and you have these people stopped by two medical examiners, asked all sorts of questions as to their mental condition I think you have fulfilled all the conditions required. Now here is a point which many people omit when they talk about immigration. The moment an immigrant is bemuddled he is asked to step into a side room. The moment a face rash probably, a most harmless rash, or some eruption on the face is seen, he is told to stand aside, and so with the eyes, if they are temporarily inflamed, he is told to stand aside. When the examination of the ship load is through and the able-bodied people have been passed, those who have been told to stand aside are detained, perhaps for weeks, before they are allowed to go. They are taken to the hospital, they undergo a lengthy examination in the division room, and if the officials are not satisfied they are sent to the division hospital where the chief medical officer examines them. I have every sympathy with those who want good immigrants. I am sure no man in the west at any rate, wants a cursory examination or a careless examination, or wants undesirable people. We must have immigrants even more than the people in the east. They must come, and I will stand up with anybody for a good class. But I do not think we should impose an examination that would be no more than showy.