

Mr. WILSON. What good is he ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. If he does not send us any immigrants to-day, he may do so to-morrow, and if he does not send any he does not get any money.

Mr. WILSON. If a man does not send an immigrant to the country in a year, what is the use of keeping him ? I dare say that he is loaded up with stationery and other things that cost the department something. I do not believe in keeping a lot of people who are not of any use. Are these agents on commission each furnished with literature for distribution, and if so, what amount of literature have they distributed in the United States ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. It would be quite impossible for me to tell the hon. gentleman the exact quantity of literature distributed by each of the agents of the department. I presume that we could ascertain by a laborious search.

Mr. WILSON. I asked if you furnish each agent with a certain amount of literature ?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I could not say whether we do or not. The inspector distributes such literature as he thinks desirable and useful.

Mr. WILSON. I think this is information which we ought to have. The hon. gentleman's deputy is here, and I think he ought to be able to get it from him.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. It is quite impossible for the deputy minister or anybody else to state off-hand the exact amount of literature each agent has received from the department. If the members of the committee desire it, we will make an assiduous effort to procure that valuable information for my hon. friend, and bring it down.

Mr. SPROULE. It seems to me that we ought to be informed whether these agents who have sent no returns have been distributing the literature, whether it has been sent to them, and whether they incur any expense that has been paid by the department notwithstanding the fact that they have received no commission. The department surely has a record of what literature it distributes, and to whom it is distributed.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. All I can say is that literature is furnished under the direction of the inspectors to the salaried agents of the different states, and the salaried agents distribute the literature to the sub-agents whenever they think it can be usefully done. Whether we can get an exact record of what is sent to each sub-agent I am not at present able to say. Possibly it can be traced with a certain degree of accuracy. It would be quite a laborious operation, but if the committee desire that

information, we will make an honest effort to get it.

Mr. MONK. The question of immigration is a very large one, and in view of the very large amount we are going to spend this year the amount asked for under this item being \$150,000 more than was asked for last year, the matter is worthy of a little discussion, particularly after what was said yesterday. The hon. minister yesterday stated his policy with great frankness. He does not believe in helping the population of this part of the country in any way to move into the new territories, and he believes in filling up the North-west as quickly as possible, provided a suitable inspection is secured and proper agents are obtained; and he went so far as to say that he could not relax for a single moment. These agencies must be kept up, with the system of advertising, and all this great expense must be maintained, or else there would be a diminution in the flow of immigration to the North-west. The inspection is a most important point. That and some other points which were mentioned yesterday by my hon. friend from Lennox, the hon. gentleman has not approached to-night. The hon. member for Lennox yesterday pointed out some glaring discrepancies in this expenditure of \$650,000 which we are making this current year. There were 6,000 Galicians came into Canada, and there are no homestead entries for Galicians. That is something which requires explanation. There were various other points mentioned by my hon. friend from Lennox (Mr. Wilson), upon which we are entitled to an explanation before voting this large item. Is the inspection properly carried out ? There was an article published in one of our medical periodicals last year with regard to trachoma, that disease of the eyes which is being imported into this country by these immigrants. That article was written by Dr. Gordon Byers, an eye specialist of Montreal, who is a professor in McGill and are of the attending specialists at Victoria Hospital. In it he points out that trachoma is now implanted in our country and has been brought in by these immigrants. My hon. friend from Halifax (Mr. Roche) took a very optimistic view of that disease, but I understand it to be incurable. I find in this evening's Montreal 'Star' the following reference to the temporary officer whom the hon. gentleman has appointed in the city of Quebec to examine these immigrants, particularly as regards trachoma :

Dr. Faber, charged with illegal practice keeps an immigration inspector at Quebec for steamship lines.

I do not know whether he is an appointee of my hon. friend or not, but this goes to show that the inspection is not carried on as it should be.

Quebec, July 15.—Dr. Faber, supervisor of immigration for the Canadian Pacific Railway