

Mr. ROBERTSON.—We never have too many of them. All our own salaried agents, and agents we have working on commission, report that there is always a large demand for both. They say give us more farm labourers or the farmers will lynch us. No difficulty is being found so far in finding employment for all classes of immigrants that the Government advises to come to the country. They are readily placed under the existing arrangements, and there is no likelihood, so far as I can see, of any danger that too many of them will come into the country, at all events in the very near future.

Hon. Mr. BOLDOC.—Have you anything to show that all those who come into the country as farm labourers or female servants actually engage in that kind of work, or do many of them settle in towns?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—Well, I was speaking of the bonus that we pay, and of the means which we adopted to see that the immigrant on arrival is placed. That is done through commission agents. We pay those agents \$2 for placing a domestic servant or a farm labourer and we do not pay the money until we have a written certificate from the employer showing that the servant or farm labourer has been placed. Unfortunately they do not always stay.

The CHAIRMAN.—Here is a despatch from London published in a Montreal paper:

‘Referring to a recent statement that Ontario farmers were sending over to obtain 1,000 labourers, Agent General Reid stated yesterday that it would be impossible to fill such an order unless all expenses were paid, as agricultural labourers were difficult to procure.’

Mr. ROBERTSON.—As the agricultural population of the British Islands is less than seven per cent. of the total population you can easily see that securing genuine farm labourers is a difficult matter.

The CHAIRMAN.—I was under the impression that we were hardly getting a fair number of farm labourers for the amount of money we were paying out.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—We are not paying so very much money.

The CHAIRMAN.—We are paying \$100,000 in one year.

Mr. ROBERTSON.—Well, \$100,000 represents only 22,000 farm labourers for the whole of Canada.

The CHAIRMAN.—Do you think you get that many from England?

Mr. ROBERTSON.—The farmers of the West ask for more than that every year for the harvest alone.

The CHAIRMAN.—I am bound to say that I have not seen one out of 50 that took up a pitch fork of those who came from England. Some of those who represented themselves as farm labourers never saw the grass grow until they left London unless they saw it in a park. Many had not even saw a hen before, yet they were looking for work as farm labourers and tramping about the country and people were keeping them up. Steps should be taken to put a stop to that. We want farm labourers.

Miss WILEMAN.—When Sir George Askwith was out here he commented on that. He spoke of the large number of city-bred people who came out who were totally inexperienced and lacked training. In some way or other, I do not see how they have been coming to Canada. The industrial and manufacturing side of the country is not on a par with its agricultural side, but because these immigrants must live and must get some money, they have been sent out on the land, and his point of view was that it would be far better to train men and women in the Old Country first so that they would be a little acquainted with country conditions before coming to this country. They would then be valuable assets to Canada and to those who employed them, and they would not be pitched about from one farm to another as they are at present. If you only knew my experience of 14 months running that Labour Bureau