

APPENDIX No. 3

Our agents in the Old Country have instructions to be impartial in the advice they give regarding each province and to give every assistance possible to the agents who from time to time are sent over to represent the individual provinces by their respective governments.

It is gratifying for me to be able to report that the immigration for the current fiscal year is considerably in excess of that of any previous year. For the last three fiscal years it has totalled as follows:—

1908-9.	146,908
1909-10.	208,794
1910-11.	311,084

For the first ten months of this fiscal year the immigration has been 300,705 and for the full year will likely be about 358,000. For the ten months just referred to only 67,338 were Continental Europeans, 111,706 were from the States and 121,661 were from the British Isles.

By Mr. Best:

Q. Is it a fact that there are double as many farm labourers hired by the year in Ontario as there are in the Western Provinces?

A. I could not tell you that.

Q. There is so much stock raising in Ontario that we need farm help all the year around in a great many cases, whereas in the West they grow wheat and do not need it.

A. I am simply stating facts when I say that a very large number of farmers hire men from six to eight months; a great many do not keep their men during the winter.

Q. A great many of them do and many more would if they could get the help.

By Mr. Marshall:

Q. Do you not think that if the farmers paid higher wages they would not have so much trouble in getting help?

A. Well, of course that would be some inducement to them to stay.

Q. It is the case with us in the factory we have a lot of men hired by the year although we are not doing much work now, but we have to keep them, and I think that would apply to the farmers.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—On account of the immigration to Western Canada from the a farm labourer can get work at any season of the year.

Mr. BEST.—It is a fact that five out of every ten will not hire for a year, they want to hire for six or seven months.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—On account of the immigration to Western Canada from the other provinces it is quite evident that unless those people who go west are replaced by others coming out from the old land the old provinces will soon be in a very unsatisfactory condition. Now you have, I understand, according to this statement that you made before this committee last year, a copy of which I have here, about 81 farmer delegates, or you did have last year, located in Great Britain?

A. Eighty-one? I think we had about eighty-one employment agents in Ontario.

Q. Of the farm delegates that were sent to the British Isles in the fiscal year 1909-10 I notice about 58 were from Western Canada and you say there are five from Ontario this year?

A. Five from Ontario, yes.

Q. Now do not these agents influence the emigrant in deciding where he is going to locate?