

Agriculture and Colonization.

several provinces, and we are in communication with the local governments with a view to getting that information. This is all part of a new policy adopted by the Imperial authorities with reference to the colonies.

Q. There has been a conference in Winnipeg, lately, on the subject of immigration. What relation had it to your Department, or had it any connection?—A. It had no connection with our Department; it was purely voluntary.

Q. Was it started by the Provincial Government?—A. No; by private individuals, following the same lines of a movement made by the people of Minnesota, who had an immigration conference in St. Paul, during the past winter. The object of the conference was largely to enlist the active co-operation of private individuals with the Government in the work of immigration.

By Senator Perley:

Q. They have made application for a certain sum of money to be placed at their disposal?—A. I do not think they have specified a certain sum of money. They have asked for assistance, but have not specified how much they want nor how they propose to apply it. As far as I am able to understand, they had no definite plan of operations formed when they were here.

Having examined the preceding transcript of my evidence, I find it correct.

A. M. BURGESS,
Deputy Minister of the Interior.

APPENDIX TO MR. BURGESS'S EVIDENCE.

By order of the Committee, vide p. 216, 223.

IMMIGRANT ARRIVALS IN CANADA.

I make the following extracts from my Annual Report to the Minister of the Interior for 1895:—

The number of people arriving in Canada by way of Halifax and Quebec during the past six years, and declaring their intention to settle in the country, was as follows:—

1890	24,409
1891	26,894
1892	27,810
1893	29,455
1894	20,680
1895	18,617

There was a falling off for 1895 of 2,000 as compared with 1894. The percentage of decrease, however, was far greater during the early part of the season than it was later on, which I think may be taken as a somewhat hopeful sign. The High Commissioner, in dealing with the subject, while admitting that he does not for a moment intend to infer that the movement from Great Britain to Canada is as large as he would like to see it, maintains that we have had a very fair share of the *bona fide* emigration, the settlers being of a good class. The difficulties in the way of obtaining tenant farmers are fully and well described in the High Commissioner's report, and I am convinced that all that can be done at present is to maintain the interest in Canada which has been created and to keep in touch with the agricultural community—the means taken to this end being, in my opinion, well conceived and well carried out.