

Mr. BORDEN (Halifax). How much did the increase cost?

Mr. WILSON. I have not got the increased cost specially as regards Ireland, but I will give the increased cost and the increased number of immigrants later on. Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that Mr. John Redmond, a very prominent Irish member of parliament made a speech on the 17th March last and he stated that 45,000 persons had left Ireland during the year 1900. Well, we succeeded in getting 765 out of these 45,000. I am of the opinion that if we had no immigrant agents in Ireland at all that we would have got just as many people from that country as we did.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. CLARKE. Probably more.

Mr. WILSON. Not only that; but Mr. Devlin in his report complains of the criticism he has received in the past, and he says it was unfair to measure his efforts by the number of immigrants that reached this country from Ireland, and in fact he seems to make out that he is doing other work. My impression is that Mr. Devlin was appointed to Ireland as an immigration agent, and that his principal business was to get people to come to Canada. That being so he certainly has succeeded very poorly. Mr. Devlin complains of the miserable pittance he is getting in the way of salary and he points out in his report that the Lord Mayor of Dublin gets more for one year than he gets for three years.

Mr. HUGHES (North Victoria). Why does he not run for Lord Mayor?

Mr. WILSON. I suppose there is no reason why Mr. Devlin should keep the job if he does not want it. But, of course, we all understand why Mr. Devlin is emigrant agent in Ireland.

Mr. BENNETT. Why?

Mr. WILSON. It is not from choice but from necessity. His leader and he differed very materially on the Manitoba school question, and when Mr. Devlin was elected in 1896 as a member of this House and found that he could not get the Prime Minister of Canada to carry out his pledges as he (Mr. Devlin) understood them, then rather than quarrel with the Prime Minister and his party he accepted the position of emigrant agent in Ireland. That is my version of why Mr. Devlin is an emigrant agent. We find, Sir, that Mr. Smart, the Deputy Minister of the Interior, makes no reference to assisted passages in his report this year. He does not seem to have a word to say about it, and neither does he refer to the great increase in the exodus from Ireland. Lord Strathcona in his report for 1899 took the same view as Mr. Smart and felt that it was

important that we should give assisted passages if we were to get immigrants from the old country, but this year Lord Strathcona is as silent as the grave on what ought to be done in that line. Then we have a gentleman who was appointed by this government as superintendent of immigration in the old country; one Mr. W. T. R. Preston—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Victoria, N.S.). What does the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wilson) mean by the 'old country.'

Mr. WILSON. I mean the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; that is what I meant.

Mr. HUGHES (North Victoria). What did you think he meant?

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Victoria, N.S.). There are older countries than that in the world.

Mr. WILSON. Not being accustomed to speak very often in the House I may be pardoned if I sometimes make a slip.

Hon. Mr. HAGGART. You were perfectly right.

Mr. WILSON. I was about to refer to the superintendent of emigration who was appointed by this government, and I can hardly see what the necessity is for paying this gentleman, who is well known in this country, a salary of \$3,000 a year and expenses to superintend seven or eight emigrant agencies with about as many agents in charge. Mr. Preston has a salary of \$3,000 and his expenses, and during the year 1900 these two amounted to \$4,825. I would like to know what Mr. Preston did for that money. In his report for 1899 he also recommended strongly, assisted passages, and he went further. He said that the time had come when the old methods must be done away with; when we must not only give assisted passages to desirable emigrants, but when we must pursue the same course that insurance agents do in this country, namely, see the parties who intend to emigrate and canvass them. Mr. Preston's excuse in his report of this year is, that the time was not opportune for that kind of work. It does seem to me that if there ever was a time that was opportune it was this year when 45,000 people were leaving Ireland and seeking homes in foreign countries.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few words with reference to the fitness of the men who have been appointed by this government as emigration agents. I am afraid they have been chosen more because of political services rendered to their party than for any fitness they possess for the office they were to fill. Mr. Preston in his report refers to New Brunswick, and he says that province appointed an emigrant agent by