

believe there is no present intention, but that is a question which is under the consideration of the Minister.

Q. It does not concern only the lower provinces? A. No; but Mr. Schreiber reports there is a good-sized room in connection with the railway.

Q. It accommodates about 140 or 150, and sometimes 1,200 arrive? A. It might be insufficient for a large influx of immigrants.

By Mr. Watson:

Q. I entirely agree with the remarks of the gentleman from British Columbia, a few minutes ago, that it is important to receive the immigrants at the place of arrival, and a small expenditure by the Department to put up some sheds would make people more comfortable on their arrival? A. We have sheds or stations at different points in the North-West. We had sheds at Emerson, but they were destroyed, and in fact rendered useless by changes at stations. At Winnipeg we are going to erect a very adequate building. We have one at Brandon which is quite large and sufficient for all purposes. There are two on the line of the North-Western Railway. There is one at Troy, Qu'Appelle; one at Medicine Hat, and another at Calgary. A temporary building is also rented at Regina, and we have a building at Victoria, B. C.

Q. A small expenditure of say \$1,000 for a building would be of great service to immigrants? A. That is a question of considerable importance in connection with the general question of immigrant settlement.

By Mr. Trow:

Q. Have you any particular rule whereby you retain these immigrants in the sheds, as to length of time? A. What happens is this: Immigrants who require to use the sheds consist very largely of families. The wife and children will be left in the sheds for two or three days or more, while the husband goes to make a selection of his homestead. When he has done that and obtains the necessary stock and supplies they all go on together.

Q. Are there any instances of the head of the family going away for months and leaving his family there? A. At Emerson in the past that has happened in a few very exceptional cases. But there is no such practice generally.

By Major General Laurie:

Q. Who feeds these people under these circumstances? A. They feed themselves.

Q. Have they appliances for cooking? A. Yes; stoves and fuel are supplied by the Department.

By Mr. Baker:

Q. The agents of the Department of Agriculture—the immigration agents—are generally regarded as the agents of the Department at their respective stations, including quarantine matters? A. No; they have nothing to do with quarantine. That is a separate administration, although it comes under the control of the Minister of Agriculture.

Q. Is it any part of their duty to carry on correspondence with persons who may seek information as to the commercial relations between Victoria, B.C., and San Francisco and the Hawaiian Islands? Are they expected in their capacity as agents to give reasonable and full replies to correspondence of that nature? Have they been so instructed? A. Yes; in so far as they are able, the fullest information in relation to their respective localities. If you will look at the reports which are published in the appendix to the report of the Minister of Agriculture, you will find detailed commercial reports from nearly all of the agencies.

Q. The reason I ask is, sometimes an immigration agent might feel himself overworked, and in reply to such a question say: I am an immigration agent and that is a question of trade and commerce? A. It would not be his duty to give that answer.

By Major General Laurie:

Q. Sometimes 1,200 immigrants arrive at Halifax, and freight is piled up around them so that there is no possibility of their getting warm? A. That is simply a