

Dated Paris, France, August 22nd, 1902.

Through the courtesy of the manager of the Red Star line at Antwerp, I am able to present herewith a list of rejections at Antwerp, from January 1st to August 9th, 1902, for cause, to wit: trachoma, favus, &c. Of these 373 persons, not ten per cent were returned to their native homes, 'the remainder fell into the hands of Canadian steamship agents and disappeared.'

I found the examinations at Rotterdam to be equally effective, and the rejections approximately the same in percentage, and the rejected ones there were also reported to have been almost invariably taken up by Beaver Line agents and forwarded to Canada.

This seems to have been reduced to a practice. Those not fit to go to the United States are sent to Canada. There seems to be a society among the agents, and an arrangement by which badges are affixed to immigrants indicating by what route they are to be sent. And in this way we get all the diseased persons, while those who were healthy went to the United States. One gentleman told him that out of all the immigrants he sent out, he sent 1,230 to Canada and only 30 to the United States. Mr. Watchorn, in an interview with the Montreal 'Star' of June 3rd, gave the proper idea of what we should do:

With the co-operation of Canada we would preserve this continent of North America for the decent, the healthy and self-supporting from other lands.' This was the remark made by Mr. Robert Watchorn, United States immigration commissioner, to a 'Star' representative.

That is one of the most desirable things we could do—we should endeavour to keep this country for the honest, industrious and healthy people. Then, we should have a country in a few years that would develop and make rapid progress. But if we allow all classes to come in as they have done in the past, instead of going ahead, we shall certainly degenerate.

But now I wish to come more particularly to a matter that, perhaps, interests us more directly. We have spent for immigration during the past year the hon. Minister of the Interior tells us, \$560,857.45. I am a little at loss to know how he gets these figures. If you take the main estimates we passed for the year ending 30th June, 1903, you find the total vote was \$445,000, made up as follows:—

Salaries of agents and employees in Canada, Great Britain and foreign countries	\$100,000
Contingencies in Canada, Great Britain and foreign agencies and general immigration expenses, including salaries of extra clerks and head office	333,000
Women's National Immigration Society, Montreal	1,000
Girls' Home of Welcome, Winnipeg	1,000
Total	\$445,000

Then, we find in the first supplementary estimates brought down: Immigration further amount required, \$100,000. Then, in the second supplementary estimates for the

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same year, page three, immigration, \$98,114. This makes a total of \$643,114, or \$82,254 more than the minister gave to me a few days ago as a total expenditure. I presume that the hon. minister, if he sees fit to answer me, will be able to give reasons for this difference.

I wish to take up the question of homesteading, because I find that the hon. minister lays a great deal of stress upon the homesteads. The department seem to think, judging from the evidence of the deputy minister, that by quoting the number of homesteads they prove that the immigrants who come to Canada remain here. The report is that 14,633 homesteads were taken up last year. But we must see where these homesteaders came from. In the first place there are Canadians, as follows:—

From Ontario	2,583
Quebec	316
Nova Scotia	81
New Brunswick	53
Prince Edward Island	35
British Columbia	32
Manitoba	661
North-west Territories	319
Total	4,080

These can hardly be spoken of as immigrants, that is people who come into our country from outside. Then, there are 1,158 who had previously entered. These added to the number of Canadians makes a total of 5,238, which is to be taken from the total of 14,633 homesteads, leaving 9,395 homesteads taken up by immigrants. You can multiply that by three or three and one-eighth, and still you will not account for one-half of the immigrants that are reported as having come to this country, for the report of the Minister of the Interior shows that 67,379 immigrants came into the country in 1901-2. As the government pretend to encourage only farmers or farm labourers to come to Canada, it would be supposed that a very large number would take up land and be found located in the North-west. But they are not to be found. For instance, the minister's report shows that 6,550 Galicians came into the country, but not one of them is shown as having homesteaded. Also there were 2,451 Scandinavians, and not one of these is among the homestead entries. We are spending a very large amount of money on immigration, and I fear we are hardly getting as much return as we have a right to expect. We have the Barr colony, which was investigated pretty thoroughly before the committee. We had Mr. Smart, the deputy minister, for several days before the committee, and I have not the report of his evidence. Of the 3rd June, 1903, Mr. Smart was before us, and he gave us the following information as I find at page twenty-three of that day's proceedings:

Q. How many homesteads have been applied for?—A. Up to the number of about 1,400 or 1,500.