

be anxious to learn the bearing of this question as it applies to other countries than England, and to other subjects than mere personal interest; and thus Immigration soon becomes one of the most interesting of studies. Pre-supposing all this being the case, and that most of the gentlemen present have heard of my name as being connected with Emigration work in Switzerland, Germany and Austria, I may proceed to give you a short sketch of—

- 1.—Why I connected myself with Emigration matters.
- 2.—How and with what means I did it.
- 3.—What is the result of my work?
- 4.—What should be done in future, as far as regards the European Continent?

I have mentioned on another occasion that I consider a well-regulated and organized emigration the only rational means of relieving, to some degree, the over-crowded populations of Europe. I say, a well regulated and organized Emigration. In order to accomplish this, it is necessary to reach influences which I was sure I would reach sooner or later, and it is for this reason that I connected my name with a work which stands in such bad repute—a work which pre-supposes mere mercenary principles, and those even of the meanest kind.

Organizing emigration—which organization comprises in itself a certain degree of protection, removal of difficulties, saving of time and money, and thereby assisting a portion of mankind to a better future—is, in my estimation, a work worthy of the noblest minds, but it is not commonly understood as such. You have no conception of the amount of distrust which exists towards any emigration movements—distrust which I think myself perfectly justified, for in many cases it is really but a traffic and speculation in human kind. On the Continent, your antagonists are, in the first place, this very distrust and the ignorance of the masses; in the second, the aversion of the Governments, influenced by the mistaken idea that a diminution of the population is a loss to the country, which idea is fostered by the interest of the possessing classes, whose endeavour it is to retain the masses, so that they can be employed at “starving prices.” Last and not least, the energetic endeavours of agents of other countries to spread damaging reports concerning Canada abroad. It was, therefore, not an easy task to try and overcome these prejudices, and turn the current of the stream of Emigration, to some degree at least, to a country so utterly unknown, or known to