

affairs as much as we have in a year and a half, we should relax our efforts and run the risk of going backwards. In 1896, when hon. gentlemen opposite had nearly ceased their efforts, immigration had nearly ceased. In one year the late Government spent over \$500,000 in promoting immigration. We have never contemplated asking Parliament for such a large amount of money. But the hon. gentleman will find that in proportion as the expenditure on immigration has become smaller the immigration has fallen off. For ten years there was an average expenditure of about \$225,000 a year, but, in proportion as the expenditure was reduced, the immigration fell off. If this vote were wiped out, instead of 15,000 coming in in three months, next year there would be only 2,000 or 3,000, and, in the following year there would be practically none. Wherever we are doing work we are contending against active and enterprising agents, and there is the strongest competition in every place where any effort is made to secure immigrants. I have had in my mind specially, during the work that has been done, the necessity of taking only agricultural immigrants; and, so far as I know—in fact I am in a position to state positively—no inducement has been held out to any person of any other class to come to this country. I believe it would be a mistake to induce others to come. So far as the difference in nationality is concerned, I may say to my hon. friend that the results in Ireland have not been satisfactory to me. But this is because of the fact that the agents who were working there have been labouring under very great difficulties. My hon. friend from West Assiniboia brought before the House last year the fact that when Mr. Devlin went to Ireland he was met with a most violent attack from the home rule press, and it was made almost a political question that no person should give him any aid or comfort in inducing people to leave Ireland.

Mr. Devlin addressed himself to overcoming that difficulty with great determination and with great success, and he finally succeeded in getting the very press that had been denouncing him to acknowledge that there was merit in his work, and it was worth while for the people to listen to what he had to say. I have great hope that in the course of a little time he will succeed in giving us a number of desirable settlers. We have to remember that our efforts are somewhat like those of an army. We fire off an enormous number of bullets, not expecting that every bullet is going to find a billet, or kill an enemy. We have to direct our work to those places where we think it is likely desirable results can be accomplished; but we do not think that it is desirable to stop at once because at first large results are not accomplished. If, in the course of another year, no substantial results are accomplished in Ireland, then, of course, it will be desirable for us to with-

Mr. SIFTON.

draw our staff from that place. The expenditure in connection with the Galician immigration is not large. The salary of Professor Oleshow, the only agent we have, is \$600 a year. We have paid so far for the work he has done for us, \$2,600 for printing and expenses, and we require to pay him under the arrangement which we have made with him, a bonus of \$2.50 a head on those that are actually landed in this country.

Mr. SPROULE. How much per head to the steamship companies which bring them out?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. We do not pay anything to the companies. The ordinary passage is about \$20 across the ocean; we contribute absolutely nothing to the passage of an immigrant. The one principle that I have proceeded upon has been that if a man was worth having, he could pay his own passage to this country. We have not assisted the passage of any immigrants with the exception of one party of servant girls, who were brought out under the supervision of Mrs. Livingstone, and whose passage money is to be repaid. It was simply an advance for a short time, and I am satisfied the arrangement will result in the repayment of the money.

Mr. SPROULE. I understood the hon. gentleman to say that he had paid a bonus to steamship companies for each passenger brought in.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Not to the steamship companies, but to the booking agents. I may explain that these booking agents in Europe are not in the employ of the steamship companies in the ordinary sense, though there are, of course, salaried agents. The experience of railway companies and governments that have had anything to do with continental immigration is that if you do not pay the usual bonus to the steamship agents you do not get anybody. The agents, for instance, book immigrants at these European ports. If word went over there that we were not going to pay the usual bonuses, they would simply boycott Canada within a month, and we would not get a single immigrant from those ports until we renewed the arrangement. When I say not a single immigrant, I mean none of the class of people that are generally known as immigrants. It is one of those things which every one learns at once, on turning his attention to this subject. We cannot ignore the booking agents.

Mr. INGRAM. What control has the department over the class of immigrants that come to this country, if these people themselves get bonuses? I read in this report:

The sub-agents receive commissions according to the following scale, namely: For every male