

and having been reduced from about \$200,000 for the immediately preceding year, I can assure the Committee that it has been very difficult for the Minister and those acting under him so to direct the affairs of that branch of the Department as to maintain in a fairly efficient state the machinery for the promotion of immigration from the several fields which had previously been occupied, and yet carry on the work within the limits of the money at our disposal. I have no hesitation in telling the Committee that, in my opinion, if the reduction were to be made permanent, it would be necessary for the Department to abandon some of the fields which at the present time we are attempting to occupy. This statement I make with the knowledge of the head of the Department, and I am authorized by him to say that he concurs in this conclusion.

EXPENDITURE OF THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE CURRENT YEAR.

Every member of the Committee is aware that out of the appropriation of \$130,000, the Department is called upon to maintain the immigration office at Liverpool, including the salary and expenses of the agent and five officers, and the travelling expenses and all other expenditures which they may incur in the performance of their duties, with the rent of the building and the taxes thereon, and the cost of heating, lighting, insurance, furniture, maintenance and caretaking.

*By Mr. McGregor :*

Q. How much is that?—A. I am just setting out the various services in which the expenditure is made.

Q. How much is spent for that office?—A. I did not make out that calculation, but it can easily be done.

Q. That is what we want. It would be interesting to know how much we are spending, and who are getting it?—A. For each office?

Q. Yes?—A. The Public Accounts show that, and also the Auditor General's Report. It is only a question of totalling up the figures. In the Auditor General's Report the cost of each office is given, the statement he publishes being obtained from my Department.

*By Mr. McLean (King's) :*

Q. They are all stated in the Auditor General's Report?—A. Yes, and therefore I did not think it necessary to repeat them this morning.

*By Mr. McGregor :*

Q. You had better put it there?—A. Very well. The Department has also to pay the cost of postage, telegrams, stationery and printing, and all the other miscellaneous expenses attaching to the maintenance of an office of this kind, usually classified under the heading of "Contingencies." The same statement is true in regard to the office at Bristol, and the office at Glasgow, where there is an agent and one clerk. The agency in Ireland at the present moment is vacant, but the same remarks may, nevertheless, be applied to it, with the exception that, latterly, no office rent has been paid, the agent being required to spend the equivalent of his office rent and expenses in travelling around the country.

In Scotland we have Mr. W. G. Stuart, popularly known as "Baillie" Stuart, occupying the northern part, with headquarters at Inverness; Mr. Peter Fleming, the southern counties, with headquarters at Dundee; and in England Mr. E. J. Wood, whose work is confined to the central and northern counties, with headquarters at Birmingham. So far as the southern part of England is concerned, a similar service is to all intents and purposes rendered from the High Commissioner's Office, from which point lecturers are arranged with, &c. I am glad to say that in a large proportion of cases these lecturers render their services free of charge, but in relation to their work there are considerable expenses in the way of advertising, printing and occasionally the rent of a