
THE EVIDENCE



PART I

IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION

HOUSE OF COMMONS, 28th February, 1889.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met this morning, Mr. White (Renfrew), Chairman, presiding.

THE CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Lowe is here in accordance with the request of the committee, to give us such information as is in the possession of the Department respecting immigration. I think the better way would be to let Mr. Lowe make his statement, and leave any question which it is desired to ask him until the close, rather than during the progress of his statement.

MR. LOWE.—I will endeavor to make the statement of facts I have to give as brief as possible. In the first place, following the practice of previous meetings, we have given the numbers of immigrants arriving. I think it will not be necessary for me to go into much detail of these, for the reason that the report of the Minister is now before the House, containing very full particulars. I may, however, state that the gross immigration—that is, settlers in Canada—during the year amounted to the number of 88,766. That is an increase, in round numbers, of about 4,000 over the previous year, the figures apparently being on the up grade, having gradually risen from 69,000, in round numbers, to the present figure. There is also a noticeable feature in our returns, and that is the entries at the Custom houses with settlers' goods. These, I may explain, are a registration. They are taken down name by name. The total number of these during the year were 36,660, against 29,800 the previous year—again on the up grade. Another point of interest is the number of settlers reported to have gone to the North-West during the year. That is 29,685, as nearly as can be ascertained by the agents at the various points. I give these figures as an approximation. Possibly the actual figures would rather be in excess, as we have subjected these to as sharp a criticism as possible. That is an increase again over the previous year, the total number of the previous year being 21,685. These figures include both immigrants from other countries and migrants from the older Provinces. The figures are not by any means so large as those during what may be called the "boom" years, when there were 58,000 and 42,000 in a year, but they are very much larger than in intervening years—as in 1885, for instance, the figures had gone down to about 7,000. It is also of interest to state the amount of money and effects brought in by settlers during the year. So far as ascertained by our agents, we have the large sum of \$2,500,000 in round numbers, and the reported values of entries of settlers' goods was \$1,180,000—making considerable figures of values. There is a further point, and that relates to the occupations of the immigrants arriving. We have a registration at the ports of Halifax and Quebec, but elsewhere throughout the Dominion we have no means of ascertaining the fact of occupations, but those coming in at those two ports may be accepted as a sort of test—at least, they are proportionate to the numbers. Among the total number of entries by the St. Lawrence of 28,530, there were 14,069 farmers, 11,956 laborers, 998 mechanics and 70 professional men. That is of stated occupations in a total number of 28,530 out of 88,000 in round numbers. At Halifax the figures are somewhat smaller. The total arrivals at that port from all parts was 19,589. There were among these 2,000 farmers, 6,000 laborers, 700 mechanics, 263 clerks and traders, and 1,659 female servants.

There is next the question of the children who have been brought out by charitable societies and individuals during the year. The total number of these, as detailed in the report of the Minister, are 1,622, and these are cared for by the societies and benevolent persons who bring them out, most of them having receiving homes in this country. On this point I may mention that in accordance with the suggestions made by the committee last session it was ordered that there should be

a medical inspection of each child before embarking. The societies and benevolent persons who have had charge of these children have been quite willing to fall in with that suggestion; in fact, they have accepted it as something that might be of service to them in their operations, rather than a drawback. That has been carried out. There is still one further point in reference to children, and that has relation to the class of paupers; I mean paupers proper—that is, those who have received help from the State as a means of subsistence. As regards children of this class, no very large numbers have been brought out, but the greatest care has been exercised with them. Miss Rye, who is largely engaged in this work, wrote me a letter on the 15th inst., in which she stated that out of 100 of these children brought out by her during the year only six remained at the Home. She calls them the “residium,” and she sends me a photograph of those six. (Witness handed photograph to the committee.) The committee, after looking at that, will see that they have a very good appearance, to say the least. With regard, also, to the class of paupers which is connected with this point, I may state to the committee that the High Commissioner, Sir Charles Tupper, has an agreement with the Local Government Board, by virtue of which no paupers are allowed to embark for Canada without his previous consent, and that consent is never given unless a very careful inspection shall have established the fact of the entire suitability of the immigrants, and also the further fact that when they come to this country they have friends to look after them. The consequence of that arrangement is that very few paupers have come to the country, and none have become burdens on the charities.

Dr. FERGUSON.—Has there been a standard of suitability laid down by the Department to guide Sir Charles Tupper, or is he to exercise his individual opinion?

Mr. LOWE.—It is an individual opinion as to the suitability of the paupers, with the further check of a requirement that the applicants shall have friends in this country to take care of them on arrival.

By Mr. MACDONALD:—

Q.—I would ask if there is a medical examination of these children made, directly or indirectly, by the Canadian Government, or is a medical man provided by parties wishing to bring in the children? A.—We have not appointed a medical man. It is an understanding with the High Commissioner, on official request of the Minister of Agriculture.

GENERAL LAURIE.—I would like to say one thing about children, which would to some extent be an answer to what Dr. Macdonald requires. In the case of Mrs. Birt's children, she had 226 children prepared for immigration. She keeps them under supervision for from two to four months, and during that time she culled these 226 to 168, taking only those she considered suitable. The effect of the present system is, that at her own expense she has to take back any children that are not suitable. That is practically a fine against bringing out any children who may not give satisfaction.

THE CHAIRMAN.—I would suggest that any questions which the committee desire to ask had better be asked, if convenient, after Mr. Lowe has made his statement.

Mr. LOWE.—Next comes the question of paupers proper. I stated at the last meeting of the committee, and subsequently in corroboration during the recess, at the request of the Minister, that it is a fact that not a single pauper had been shown to have arrived who was in any way a burden on any charity, notwithstanding all the remarks that had been made. I stated that fact with positiveness, and I repeat it now, that there has not been a simple case. I do not now refer to the simple poor. As regards that class, there is a great deal to say; but in reference to some remarks that were made in this committee at its last informal meeting, and at the request of the chairman, I think it well to make a further explanation. I happen to have in my

hands now a report of the Trade and Labour Council, published in a Toronto newspaper. It was officially addressed to me by Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue. This report refers to a statement which I had made, that not a single pauper arriving in this country had been shown to be a burden on any charity or any public institution in any way. This report meets that statement by quoting from a report made to the United States Congress by a committee engaged in picking up evidence in cities, containing these sentences:—

“As no inspection is made of immigrants along the border between Canada and the United States large numbers of alien paupers, insane persons, and others not lawfully entitled enter the United States in this way. The number during six months was estimated at 50,000. In many instances immigrants coming to Quebec have, within forty-eight hours after their arrival, been applicants for shelter in New York almshouses; and the charitable institutions, Wayne County, Michigan, are filled to overflowing from this cause.”

Here we have the advantage of a specific statement, although it is in the form of an estimate. It is stated that within six months as many as 50,000 of the insane and pauper class have crossed our frontier into the United States and gone into their almshouses. During these six months they must have come by way of Quebec. Well, the total immigration by the St. Lawrence—that is, coming by the way of Quebec, during the whole season of navigation was only 28,000. That is the number of all the immigrants of every kind who have come by way of the St. Lawrence, so that the estimate in that statement is not only an impossibility, but it is a sheer absurdity, and I do not think it has even a tittle of foundation to rest upon. There is one further point in relation to the number of immigrants who become burdens upon our charitable institutions, or our jails, or our asylums, or who receive relief in various ways. Figures have been given which go to show that the numbers of immigrants in certain institutions in Ontario are larger than the proportion of the native population in those institutions. That, however, if admitted simply to be the fact, would not be conclusive as to the character of the total immigration into the country, for the reason that the unsuitable, or those receiving charity, will always crowd towards a large centre, such as Toronto, and will not be found to any extent in other parts of the country; but apart from the general statement, we have also in this report a statement of figures, which is a kind of thing it is always satisfactory to get, as it enables an appreciation to be made with some exactness. It states: “By instruction of His Worship Mayor Clarke, City Relief Officer Taylor recently prepared and furnished the city press with a statement of the number, nationality, creed, time in Canada and time in Toronto of those who applied to him for assistance during the year ending 31st December, 1888. The number was 2,174; time in Canada, under one year, 432; over one year and under two, 343; over two years and under three, 820; not known, 258. Time in Toronto, under one month, 461; over one month and under two months, 164; over two months and under three months, 130; over three months and under four months, 96; over five months and under six months, 186; over one year and under two years, 212; over two years, 648; not known, 258.” You will observe that the number under one year in Canada was 432. I think that no more striking fact could be stated of the soundness of the immigration as a whole than that so small a number in relation to an immigration of 88,000 received relief. The fact, to my mind, is perfectly conclusive. I should explain to the committee, as I have done on previous occasions, that there will always be, in all large immigrations, a certain percentage of the unsuitable. Of the total immigration of this last year only 432 immigrants sought aid from the city relief officer of Toronto, according to that official statement, and I think the fact is a most striking proof of the soundness of the immigration as a whole.

MR. TROW.—That is in Toronto alone?

MR. LOWE.—Yes; the relief granted by that city.

DR. PLATT.—About 10 per cent. sought relief?

Mr. LOWE.—Not that. The statement is that out of 2,174 of the total poor of Toronto, 432 were under one year in Canada.

Dr. MACDONALD.—How many immigrants of this year remained in Toronto?

Mr. LOWE.—I have not the figures by me, but it is in the neighborhood, speaking roughly, of 10,000.

By Dr. WILSON, (Elgin):

Q.—The total number sent there would be 10,000? A.—We do not send any to Toronto.

Q.—But they arrived there, and were distributed from that point? A.—Yes; and that is a further point on which it is well to explain. The Government does not send immigrants anywhere, nor do we invite them to go to any point. The movement is purely a voluntary act of the persons themselves. It is also to be borne in mind that these figures include the relief that would have been called for by the congestion at the close of the assisted passages last spring. For two or three months before the assisted passage system was brought to a close there was a perfect rush of immigrants, which caused a congestion in the months of April and May in Toronto, and which, for a while, gave the Department some anxiety.

Q.—Have you any means of knowing how many remained in Toronto, so as to draw a percentage? A.—We have the numbers that Mr. Donaldson received and reported as having passed through his agency. The greater part, or nearly all of those, went to the country, but some of them would return to Toronto, especially in the winter time.

Q.—It is a very unfair conclusion to arrive at. You take the accumulated poor of Toronto, and you draw your percentage from the fact that out of the whole immigration of the country there were only 432 who applied for relief? A.—My point is this: That at Toronto or Montreal, where there are great centres of population, there will be a natural gathering of what I may call unsuitable immigrants, a class which is inseparable from all immigrations. They always go to the large centres of population, so that the numbers of the unsuitable, as shown at two points, such as Montreal or Toronto, in relation to the settlers in the locality, form no indication of the character of the whole immigration as respects the Dominion.

Dr. WILSON.—I do not object to that. I do object to this. You may say that out of the total number of immigrants there were only 432 who were virtually seeking aid or assistance from the municipality. You place them all in Toronto. Are they all there?

Mr. LOWE.—Toronto is practically the only point in Ontario where we have heard of aid of this kind being required to be given to immigrants, and therefore it is fair to generalize on the ground I have stated.

Dr. MACDONALD (Huron).—I do not understand this point. Do I understand there were 432 immigrants applied to the charities of Toronto for aid?

Mr. LOWE.—I cannot say that. What I read to you was an official report of Mr. Taylor, relief officer, by the direction of Mr. Mayor Clarke, of Toronto.

Dr. MACDONALD.—These were the figures you gave as coming from Mayor Clarke?

Mr. LOWE.—Published by direction of Mayor Clarke. Mr. Taylor, the officer, stated that 432 persons who had been in the country one year had received aid from the charities of Toronto. It does not say whether they received one meal or two meals, or one night's lodgings or two nights' lodgings. They might have received only one meal, two meals or two nights' lodgings, and the whole 432 may have been distributed in the country and found good work.

Dr. MACDONALD.—In order that this matter may have any point whatever, it would be necessary to know what proportion this bears to all the immigrants that came into the city of Toronto during this year. This proportion may be very small

indeed, but it may be a very large percentage. It is an important point. We would like to know if this is the proportion to the whole number of immigrants from which these 432 were down as receiving charity from the city.

Mr. LOWE.—I cannot state the proportion in that precise way. Very few of the total number of immigrants who go to the city of Toronto stop there, and my belief is, that perhaps the greater number of those persons who received aid, in the first place went to the country, and afterwards gravitated to the city of Toronto. There is no means whatever of finding the exact number of such persons. They may come back by the railways, or simply walk in on their feet from different parts of the country.

Dr. MACDONALD.—Then there is no knowing whether this is 1 per cent. or 20 per cent.

Mr. LOWE.—No; I cannot give any percentage. I only give the broad fact of an exceedingly small number of persons, under one year in the country, receiving relief in the city of Toronto during the year, in the face of a large immigration.

GENERAL LAURIE.—It is probable that these people may have made application to two different societies, and have been counted twice.

Mr. LOWE.—That is altogether likely. People who desire to live on aid from others, or live on their wits, instead of working for their living, are ingenious in subterfuges.

Mr. PLATT.—If these figures mean anything, they mean that of the total number of immigrants who remained in Toronto 432 received aid.

Mr. LOWE.—I do not think that the statement can with accuracy be confined to these figures. I think those who received aid at Toronto might have a very small relation to the original numbers of those who first went there. My opinion is, that the greater part of these people gravitated from the country, they having been placed in situations which they found unsuitable.

Mr. PLATT.—The figures do not show anything.

Mr. LOWE.—They show that the actual number of all the immigrants who sought relief is exceedingly small—in fact, fractional; and the smallness of these figures is inferential proof of the general soundness of immigration work.

Mr. MCNEILL.—In seeking relief—do you know exactly what seeking relief means? I have been informed that it sometimes means applying for work.

Mr. LOWE.—It may mean applying for work, or applying for meals, or applying for a night's lodging.

Mr. MCNEILL.—Supposing all these persons were now included in this 432, or whatever the figures may be—suppose that included all the immigrants that went to Toronto; suppose we take a like number in the city of Montreal, and proportionate numbers in the other cities of the country. I think that would be a good showing that these people are all the people we find who are unsuitable immigrants.

Mr. LOWE.—Well, I happen to have in my hands another newspaper statement, written apparently with hostile intent to immigration, but it contains one further fact. Mr. McMillan, of the House of Refuge, appears to have been called upon by a reporter of a paper, and he states that 210 persons on a given night sought lodgings in the House of Refuge at Montreal. This, of course, included the whole of the poor of the city of Montreal, who took advantage of the institution, and then he adds that it includes a large number are new arrivals, without showing how many. We have here again the fact of small numbers; all the rest is indefinite.

Dr. MACDONALD.—Who makes this statement, that a large number of the parties applying for charity in the city of Montreal are new arrivals?

Mr. LOWE.—It is, according to these newspaper reports, Mr. McMillan, the superintendent of that institution. He says that the total number of persons who lodged at that House of Refuge was 210, but he does not tell the number of immigrants. He says a large number of them are new arrivals. "A large number," in connection with a statement of that kind, can only be described as the size of a piece of chalk. There is nothing definite about it.

Dr. WILSON.—About as definite as the other figures.

Mr. LOWE.—Well, the total figures of 210 lodging in the institution that night from among the whole of the poor of Montreal, a large city, in the neighborhood of 200,000, has at least this definiteness—it shows the numbers are not large.

Dr. WILSON.—He says a large number of these were new arrivals?

Mr. LOWE.—He says a large number, simply.

Dr. WILSON.—That would convey the impression that a majority of these were new arrivals.

Mr. LOWE.—It would convey the impression, on my mind, that an indefinite small number was stated.

Mr. TROW.—I would ask, if we are not given a synopsis of the number or proportion of the arrivals in the country during the present year, what was the proportion for the year previous?

Mr. LOWE.—I cannot answer that question with precision, but I can state generally that it has been found that the stream of immigration has on the whole very well kept up. There happened to arrive during the months of April and May of last year, in Toronto, a very large influx. Extra steamers were put on, bringing a thousand at a time, but I do not think that the proportions arriving during the after months of the year have altered from the average of previous years. We are on the upward plane of immigration movement, and the passenger rate is now only £4, which is not very high.

Mr. TROW.—Tell the committee where the principal portion of those that arrived in Manitoba and the North-West are located. Have you any agents there who would give an account of where they are placed. They might be transient travellers?

Mr. LOWE.—As respects the portions of the country in which immigrants are located, I cannot state the particulars with definiteness in detail. I do not think there are any means of doing so, but it is generally known that in the Province of Manitoba itself there has been an unusual number of settlers this year. The local Government has been making very great efforts to see that immigrants are placed on lands within the Province itself. They have settled along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Large numbers have also settled along the Manitoba and North-Western Railway, very largely owing, I think, to the very active efforts to promote colonization by the land commissioner of that company. Also in South Manitoba there have been a good number. The numbers of immigrants reported to have arrived at Emerson during the year were 11,185, at Gretna 3,706, at West Lynne 933, at Port Arthur 24,318, making a total of nearly 41,000; but deducting the numbers of those who were known to have gone out, leaves 29,000 out of 41,000 as settlers in the whole of the North-West, as far as the Pacific coast.

Mr. TROW.—Have you any knowledge in reference to the nationality of those who came into Manitoba at Gretna—if any Americans came in?

Mr. LOWE.—I believe that movement is gaining in activity, and that it is now fostered by the Northern Pacific Railway. I cannot give numbers, in answer to the question of Mr. Trow, but I find that in connection with these settlers, returns of persons who had crossed the frontier, the number of 646 Americans entered the Province of Manitoba as settlers.

Mr. McMILLAN (Huron).—I would like to ask if this 28,000 that came into the port of Quebec—did all these intend to make their destination in Canada. A large number of those who arrived in Quebec intended to make their destination the other side?

Mr. LOWE.—A large number of those who arrived in Quebec were not immigrants to Canada proper, but simply passengers to the United States. We only put down the number of settlers at 18,700 as having arrived at Quebec, these 18,700 having stated to the agent at Quebec that it was their intention to settle in Canada.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—I just wish to ask Mr. Lowe if it is not a fact that the Department of Agriculture has a special agent at Winnipeg. I refer to Mr. Metcalf, whose special and only duty it is to keep a record of those who come in to settle in the country, and not only of their numbers, but of their destinations, and where they settled. If he is paid for that work, how does it come that the Department has no report to submit to this committee now?

Mr. LOWE.—There is a report of those who passed through Mr. Metcalf's hands, and that report of numbers will be found in the appendix to the report of the Minister of Agriculture, giving the precise count of the numbers of those who passed through Mr. Metcalf's hands.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—If I understood the answer, it is that Mr. Metcalf has nothing to do with any except those who settle on Dominion Government lands.

Mr. LOWE.—I do not say that. Mr. Metcalf's duty was to place himself in communication with as many immigrants as possible, and afford them all possible information and facilities to settle on Government lands, or settle anywhere in the Canadian North-West, and this duty I understood he has actively performed.

Mr. ARMSTRONG.—We have it now, then, that his duty is to put himself in communication with as many immigrants as possible and keep a record of where they settle. What I want to know is, what number of such parties has Mr. Metcalf put himself in communication with, and how many does he know settled in the North-West.

Mr. MACDONALD.—Has Mr. Metcalf made a report to the Government in regard to his duties, giving the numbers he has seen of the immigrants going into Manitoba?

Mr. LOWE.—I can get and produce the report of the numbers reported by Mr. Metcalf's office in a few minutes' time.

Dr. MACDONALD.—Is it in the appendix in connection with the report of the Minister of Agriculture? That has not yet been laid before the House. A.—We will have the report of the Intelligence Office in a few moments.

Q.—Is the report in the appendix to the report of the Minister of Agriculture?
A.—Yes.

Q.—I think the Minister said the other night that the appendix would only be down this week? A.—That was the appendix of the Experimental Farm.

Q.—While the report is coming, I would ask if the Government is cognizant that a number of the children brought out to this country are taken from the reformatories of Great Britain? What explanation do they give for taking children from the reformatories, where they have been placed for a certain term? Is it right we should be made the dumping ground of people who have been incorrigible and sent to the reformatory? There may be some explanation that will be satisfactory. A.—The answer to that, in the first place, is that the Government has not taken any children whatever from reformatories. It is perfectly true that some children who had been placed in reformatories, mainly for the purpose of taking them away from their associations, or, perhaps, in evil circumstances from their parents, after they had served their time and again entered the community have been brought to Canada by benevolent persons. I do not think that there is anything to prevent

that. The Government has not allowed, nor would the law allow, any child or person whatever under sentence to enter Canada, that is, laboring under a sentence of court.

Q.—But I understand, from the report of the Minister of Agriculture, that these parties have come actually from reformatories. A.—There have been, according to this report, twelve persons who have been in the Red Hill Reformatory, six in the Buxton Reformatory, and two in the St. Conleth's Reformatory, Phillipstown. The whole of these came under the care of the persons who brought them out. That is a practice that has prevailed for some years, and we have not, in the Department, heard any evil account of these children. We have, on the contrary, had satisfactory accounts. The Department has had correspondence with General Laurie, of Nova Scotia, on this subject, in which he urged in the strongest manner that no steps should be taken to prevent the entry of this class. The whole number, however, is so very small, and I do not think it would be possible to say that a child who had been removed from evil associations, who had been kept in one of these reformatories for training for a certain time, and afterwards, when all legal disabilities had disappeared, that such a child should not be allowed to go into any part of the British possessions.

Q.—It is not the number that is involved, but the principle. If the principle is acknowledged by the Canadian Government that children of British reformatories can be sent out as immigrants, the number may increase from year to year. A.—I answer the question put in that form with a distinct negative. Children are not brought from reformatories, but children who had been in the reformatories, and respecting whom the sentence had expired, have in small numbers been brought out by benevolent persons, who have cared for them.

Q.—I do not understand the expression used in the report to be that at all. If a child has been removed from a reformatory he would not be sent as coming from that reformatory, but I understand from the report that these children have been taken from the reformatory and immediately and directly sent here. It was these reformatories that sent these children out, and if they had no control over them how could they send them out? If they had sent them out as free parties they would certainly not have been sent by the reformatories, but having been sent by the reformatory authorities, therefore they have come directly from those institutions? A.—No children, when laboring under sentence, are allowed to be brought from the reformatories to Canada.

Q.—It has been rumored through the papers this last summer that parties under sentence for crime have been sent out from the institution on condition that they would emigrate to Canada. You will remember, no doubt, that the reporter of the *Globe* or *Mail* called upon certain parties in Toronto, and enquired about a certain person who came here, and it was distinctly stated that he came here on that condition—that he was relieved from sentence on condition that he would leave the old country and come to this country, and the party who advised him to do so was interested in emigration. That party was waited upon, and he had to acknowledge that parties came to this country under those conditions. A.—I think that statement refers to some reports which were contributed respecting the self-help institution. They were afterwards enquired into and totally denied.

By Mr. BRIEN :—

Q.—You say that these children did not come directly or indirectly from the reformatory? A.—I did not say that. I simply say this: that children, to a very limited number, who had been in reformatories, have been taken in charge by benevolent persons; some of them, having been kept in homes or training houses, with a view to change of their surroundings and study of their characters, have been brought to Canada.

Q.—I see by the report of the Local Government Board that many of these children have been brought from Whitechapel, from among the very worst people. I think no assistance should be given to these children? A.—No assistance is given to children from workhouses.

Q.—Do not Miss Rye's children receive any assistance? A.—Not if from workhouses, nor is there any encouragement given by the Government to this class.

Q.—In what way do they receive assistance? A.—They do not receive any assistance.

Q.—How is it, then, that in the Auditor-General's report I notice that you paid \$2 per head? A.—That has no relation whatever to children from workhouses.

Q.—I do not understand that. A.—There is a bonus of \$2 per head given for certain children, but it is for children who are taken from parents or guardians by Miss Rye, Mr. Middlemore, Miss Macpherson, Dr. Barnardo and others. These children have never been through workhouses, or reformatories, or any institutions whatever. They are simply children picked up, so to speak, by these benevolent persons, and the support which is obtained for carrying on this work is obtained by public subscription in the United Kingdom. As an aid towards the Homes, the cost of distribution and the care of these children, the Department has given for a number of years back—I think since 1872—\$2 *per capita*.

By Mr. INNES :—

Q.—What do you call Dr. Barnardo's children? A.—They are of two classes—children who have been taken from their parents and those selected from the work houses, but the children who are brought from the workhouses are distinctly separated. The Department does not give any bonus for these. It is only those who are taken from their parents or guardians by benevolent people for whom the small bonus of \$2.00 is paid.

By Dr. WILSON :—

Q.—I understand you to state that no children are brought directly out of these reformatories during the time that they are sentenced. They are to serve the penalty of their offence. Then I think I understood you to say that after they had served their term they are sent to some training institution? A.—No; not that.

Q.—Yes, yes; I understand perfectly well that they are then sent to some training institution and they are put under surveillance for a length of time, and then they are sent out to this country. Now, what I want to know is, taking your own words—I mean what you stated—if they be so brought they receive \$2 per head, which is, you say, contrary and in direct opposition to the course pursued by the Department. A.—It is a misunderstanding.

Q.—You say they went to some training institution; I merely take your own statement? A.—I did not state that.

Q.—Well, I certainly took what you said, and put your words down. A.—I will explain if you will allow me.

Q.—Now, I want to know what institutions you had reference to, that these children, after they served the term of sentence, to what institution were they sent? Now, if you will tell me that? A.—I can answer that question distinctly. I did not say that children, after being in these institutions, were sent anywhere. I stated that they were picked up by benevolent persons, who desired to better their condition of life, who desired to improve their education—that these persons took charge of these children in many cases and placed them in homes in England, and afterwards brought a few of them to Canada. I did not state that the Government paid any bonus whatever for these children. On the contrary, I stated as distinctly as I was able that no bonus whatever was paid for these children.

Q.—Does Miss Rye or Dr. Barnardo take any of these children? Are the people brought out by these people from these institutions? A.—I am not aware that either Miss Rye or Dr. Barnardo have taken any children from the reformatories. I feel sure that Miss Rye has not, and think the greater part of them have been taken to Nova Scotia, of which General Laurie can give an account. But any children from the workhouse which Miss Rye or Dr. Barnardo may bring are so brought entirely at their own expense, and the Canadian Government does not pay any bonus whatever for them.

Q.—Does the Government pay any bonus to those that are brought out from the institutions that you say General Laurie knows about? A.—No.

Q.—No bonus at all? A.—No.

Q.—Are you in a position to say that none of the children from the reformatories are taken by Miss Rye? Are you in a position to state that none of these children found their way here through Dr. Barnardo or Miss Rye? Are you in a position to state that? A.—I understand such is not the case. The classes are quite distinct.

Q.—You say, in your position as Deputy Minister, that none of the children came out in this way? A.—I say I understand that nothing of that kind of thing is done.

By Mr. MACDONALD:—

Q.—I find here a list of reformatories from which children have been sent to this country. We are told by Mr. Lowe that these reformatories do not send children directly; then, that the reformatories were not responsible directly for sending them. Then it is the benevolent parties who are responsible for taking them out of the reformatories and sending them. It is complained that these came out with Miss Rye's and Dr. Barnardo's children, and others of that kind, and they receive \$2 per head when they arrive in this country, so that this country actually pays for these parties taken out of these reformatories—no less than eight reformatories. I do not think that this is right. How would the United States feel if we sent boys from the Penetanguishene to the American Union? They would protest vigorously against it. If we wish to keep our people pure we will certainly put our foot on a policy which will enable children committed to reformatories in their youth to be sent to this country, when they bring the tendency of crime with them. I am not at all surprised to find that such a large proportion of parties brought from the old country ultimately are criminals. I understand Mr. Lowe to say distinctly that the number was not asked, but on the contrary the Government refused to give a bonus to any children known to come from reformatories. It has been stated that perhaps some of these children may find their way into the number of children sent out by Miss Rye and other persons, to this country, and accidentally the bonus may be paid on some of the children. I suppose that is conceivable? I suppose that is possible? A.—I do not think it takes place.

Q.—Mr. Lowe merely says he does not think it takes place. Is it not a thing for supposition?

GENERAL LAURIE.—Mr. Lowe has referred to me with reference to the boys from Red Hill. This is a philanthropic farming school, started by Mr. Gladstone and other gentlemen in England years ago, who felt that it was a great grievance that children of tender years ought to be sent to live with hardened criminals. Take the case of a boy of seven or eight years of age stealing a carrot from a huckster's wheelbarrow, who is taken up, brought before a police magistrate and sentenced, not to prison, but to a farm school, such as this philanthropic farm, where he is kept until he can go out and earn his own living. Then, with reference to their coming out to Nova Scotia, they had, in all cases, completed their sentences, and benevolent individuals subscribed money which had been placed at the disposal of the manager of the school, with which their passage is paid, and I have had four or five and forty in the last few years, and I knew no cases of any criminality. The boy who stole the carrots is a married man now with four or five children. We have a dozen, sir, of the most respectable storekeepers and traders in Nova Scotia from these boys of Red Hill. They are not undesirable immigrants; they are carefully watched. None are sent out, except those who earned, by long years of approbation, a good character. The institution has no control over them, but simply to furnish funds when they volunteer to come. I do not think this is undesirable immigration in any sense. There is another point I wish to state about making application to aid new arrivals. Those who know the state of the labor market of the old country know it is a hard thing to save anything to pay his passage. I had a case last year of a man and his wife. The immigration agent wrote me that they were decent people, but they had no funds

whatever. He had been unable to get them work, and he would have to send them to the poor house unless something could be got for them to do. I took them into my house. They were not used to lumbering, but I made the best I could of it. That man and his wife are as good settlers as we can want anywhere. It would be a most unfair thing to shut our doors against people of that kind. We cannot expect everybody to be capitalists. They bring a good strong right arm and a determination to work, and I do not think we should turn our doors against them or forbid them the country. I know that in Nova Scotia we are so hard up for labor that we are glad to welcome it.

Dr. PLATT.—I do not think that this is the proper place to discuss or criticise the principles which underlie the system of immigration of this country. Our object is to discover, if possible, what those principles are, and save our discussion for another place, and in the presence of the Minister, who is responsible, and not Mr. Lowe. Mr. Lowe is here to give us specific evidence in regard to those principles and the manner in which they are carried out. I do not know that it is worth while to discuss here whether the bringing out of children of the class represented is right or wrong. It may be said that if many of those children sent out here had been in reformatories there it would have been better than to be obliged to put them after they get here. There is one thing which has struck me. That the Department having heard during the last year of the criticism made upon the system by the Labor Unions of Toronto has not been prepared to meet them more specifically than Mr. Lowe has done to-day. We are left in the dark altogether as to whether the statements made by the Labor Unions are correct or whether the approximation given by the Deputy Minister would lead us to any other conclusion. I think if we could get to some system of statistics it would guide us better than discussing principles here.

Mr. Trow.—The only difficulty I see is, that the Minister is not thoroughly posted in these matters, while Mr. Lowe is a thorough encyclopædia in regard to immigration, and it behoves this committee to get all the information possible. While on my feet, I may say that I do not approve of the system of distribution for the settlement of immigrants after they arrive here. I know in the United States, in Dakota and Minnesota, you can go to the railway office there and ascertain where parties are located. One agent seems to send immigrants to another agent, and all reports are sent, as for instance in Dakota, to Fargo. The result is that you can trace a settler in any part of Dakota or Minnesota. You go, however, to the agent at Winnipeg, and say you require land; he will tell you he has no knowledge of any land vacant in his agency, instead of directing him to some other agent, and tracing him from point to point until he is located and registered. It would be satisfactory to the agent, and friends coming afterward could find him. There is, however, apparently no record kept. If they arrive in the country they may leave it in twenty-four hours, and no one knows anything about them, or whether he was known as No. 1 or No. 2, or by any name.

Mr. LOWE.—At the request of the chairman, I continue the statement of facts which I commenced to make. I think it, however, well to explain, in reference to a remark made by Mr. Trow, that although there is no means of keeping track sufficiently accurate for the purpose of statistics of the whole of the immigrants who arrive, we still have in very good operation that system of affording the kind of information of which Mr. Trow spoke. It is not only done in our offices—in our intelligence and guide offices and immigration offices—but it is done in the Canadian Pacific Railway and Manitoba & North-Western Company land offices, and also in the Manitoba Local Government offices. This system of aiding the immigrant arriving at Winnipeg in finding a location on which to settle, and affording accurate and correct information, is one of the most important means of settling the country. Its importance cannot be over-stated, and was not over-stated in the remark which Mr. Trow has just made. The conversational discussion which has taken place has

to some extent anticipated a note which I had made as to the general character and distribution of the immigration of this year. I may state, in relation to the general character, that the reports from our agents are to the effect that as a whole it has been of a very superior class, and that all persons coming to seek employment have found it. There have been no immigrants remaining over at the agencies for whom work was not found. I have made a note here as to the tests which it is possible to apply to ascertain the character of the immigration on landing. It is very difficult indeed to apply any tests beyond those indicated in the Immigration Act. I have already explained the kind of screen, if I may so speak, which we have on the other side, which prevents the embarkation of a class of paupers, who would be unsuitable for Canada. The class of simply poor persons has in the great majority of cases proved to be the best for settlement in this country, that is to say, a man having no means but his strength and energy would be more likely to succeed in this country than a man who simply comes with money, and without having in the same degree these other qualifications.

My next note has reference to the assisted passage system; and with respect to that, I may say it ceased on the 27th of April last. It had been in continuous operation since 1872, when it was found necessary to make very great exertions to meet the immigration operations which were then made by our neighbors, the United States, in what may be called the immigration market of the United Kingdom, and of other parts of Europe. The competition was then exceedingly keen, but the same state of affairs does not now seem to exist in the United States as twenty years ago. The active agents in United States interests were at that time meeting us at every possible step, and by their representations making it very difficult for us to get any immigrants whatever. The assisted passage, which was never more than a differential rate—a reduction of £1 sterling from the ordinary rate, the assisted or reduced rate being paid by immigrants—was first established as an inducement to select Canada. Now, on the other hand, the United States are not by any means so keen to receive immigrants as they were seventeen or twenty years ago, for the reason, apparently, of a sufficiency of supply in their labor markets, and having very nearly reached the limit of settlement of their good western lands. There are yet large areas of lands open and held by companies, but not very large areas of the kind which formerly invited immigrants. There is also a further fact bearing on the immigration question, and having an influence on the numbers who come. I find by the last report of the Bureau of Agriculture of the United States that the total yield of wheat per acre in the United States during the last year was only 11·6 bushels per acre. It is a very low average, and it has been a declining average for a number of years past and I think that it has a most important effect, as respects the demand for immigrants. It means exhaustion of soil to a large extent, and entailment of means for the employment of agricultural immigrants. We are, however, as against this, met by the competition of the Argentine Republic on the extreme south of these continents, which is now even more keen than the old United States competition used to be. The population of that country is not quite 4,000,000, and I believe the white population is not over 1,000,000, if it reaches that figure. It is yet a fact that they had an immigration of 200,000 last year, for the promotion of which they spent the large sum of £400,000 sterling; and by the recent advices which the Department has received, the sum to be applied during this present year by the Argentine Republic is no less than \$5,000,000. They are chartering every large steamer they can get. They are obtaining large recruits of immigrants from all parts of the United Kingdom, and parts of Europe—now actively in northern Europe. In fact, they are making a very sensible pull on the immigration market. I merely mention that as one of the factors which affects the stream of immigration from the other side of the Atlantic to Canada.

By Mr. Trow:—

Q.—Do they say anything of the climate? Is it a desirable place for immigrants from Great Britain to go to? A.—The products exported are mainly cereals, and