

servants. No difficulty had been experienced in obtaining employment for such immigrants, who were, indeed, sought after by farmers from the Ottawa Valley to London, the most western point of distribution. In view of the demand existing for that particular class of labour, the Government were somewhat surprised to find that the Agent General of the Dominion in London thought fit to issue an advertisement in August, discountenancing any emigration to Canada, from which it might be assumed that agricultural labourers were included in the list of those who should not come here, and the Agent General was ordered to still forward agricultural labourers, as the farmers of the Province were still in need of such help. His experience led him to believe that the farmers of Ontario were becoming yearly more convinced of the necessity of employing farm hands by the year. If that necessity for additional agricultural labourers existed it was the Province to seek to supply. The riot at Montreal could not be attributed either to the action of the Dominion Government or Ontario Government, for the men out of employ were those engaged in manufacturing industries while the class of emigrants were those engaged in agriculture. What the Dominion Government were not so particular as the Ontario Government in the class of emigrants they assisted, it must be remembered that it was difficult to induce a large volume of emigration without including some of those whom it was not desired to aid. Having explained that two-thirds of the whole number of immigrants arriving in the Dominion ultimately found their way to Ontario, the hon. gentleman remarked that instructions had been given to the agents in England to ascertain that all those receiving aid as agricultural labourers were such. The Government were thus endeavouring to accomplish two objects: First, to introduce to Ontario such a class of labourers as were absolutely wanted, in order that the agricultural interests might be satisfactorily carried on; and, second, to effect this object in the most economical manner. The time might arrive when a change might be desirable in the policy of assisting emigrants, but it had not yet arrived, for he believed there would be the same demand for agricultural servants in 1876 as there was during 1874 and 1875. In regard to the item for paying expenses for travelling and maintenance through the Province before emigrants reached their destination, those expenses must be borne by the Ontario Government. The sum of \$25,000 was asked for aiding agricultural unions in England to send out farm hands, instead of \$45,000 last year.

Mr. MACDOUGALL enquired if persons who had received the bonus from the Ontario Government had not passed westward to Manitoba.

Mr. CROOKS said that a party of Islanders, who had come to Toronto, had removed to Manitoba.

Mr. BOYEVAR thought it would be good policy for the Government to expend part of this money in sending back some of these immigrants. Some of them who called themselves farm labourers did not know a horse from an ox. (Laughter.)

Mr. MACDOUGALL (Middlesex) thought the large amounts spent on immigration would have been better expended in opening up the newer districts of the country. The money should be spent in improving the country and in keeping our own people here. We should make Canada the best country under the sun, and that would be sufficient inducement to bring here the class which was needed. He did not blame the Government for being led into what he believed to be an error and a mistake, for they had been led into competition with the United States in this matter.

Mr. HAY contended that, on the whole, the results of the immigration policy of the Government had been very satisfactory, both as to the number of valuable immigrants brought over, and the small expense per capita. He thought the system of giving bonuses to agricultural labourers to induce them to settle in Ontario could not be safely discontinued, so long as New Zealand and the Australian Colonies kept up their present policy of assisting the passages of immigrants to their shores. The abuses which had been complained of in reference to the immigration system of Ontario, especially in reference to assisted passages, were due to the selfish efforts of the steamship agents, and not to any neglect of duty on the part of Government agents. He could vouch from his own experience and observation that the agents of the Government were very particu-

larly cautioned as to the class of men they should endeavour to secure; they were told not to go round the cities and large towns, but to the rural districts, so as to bring the inducements offered by the Government before the agricultural labourers. It often happened that agents would advise people of other classes who applied to them for information not to come to Canada, as there was no room for them. He contended that there was yet abundant room among the farming districts of this Province for agricultural labourers. There was in his part of the country, at all events. With regard to the statement that many immigrants left this Province for the United States, he did not think this evil prevailed now to the same extent that it had in past years. He had made very particular inquiries in reference to this matter in 1874, and he could only find that some one or two families who had accepted the inducements offered by this Province had afterwards crossed the lines. He did not approve of the removal of the Quebec agent, as he thought he was very serviceable in counteracting the efforts of the Lower Province agents to take away from us our quota of needed immigrants. He also thought it would be well for the Government to have a good live agent to look after their interests at Liverpool and other points. He believed that on the whole the immigration policy of the Government was a wise and an advantageous one.

Mr. O'DONOGHUE said the question was whether they would now be justified in encouraging immigration from the Old Country. He did not object to the past system which the Government had adopted, but he thought now the attention of the Administration should be devoted rather to the assistance of the men who were in the country out of work. He denied that all the people who were here out of work were mechanics. There were large numbers of labourers here whose services were not sought by the farmers. He objected to the employment of so many agents, though he believed the Government had done the best they could in the matter.

Mr. DAWSON thought it singular that with half our country yet to be opened up any objection should be raised to obtaining immigration. (Hear, hear.) He thought the present distress in the large cities was exceptional, and objected to its leading to a change in the policy which had worked well in the past. There was a very large reduction in the expenditure proposed by the Government, and he thought a further reduction would be too sudden, and, in his opinion, uncalled for.

Mr. HARGRAFT said he thought they should not tie the Government down too much, and advocated the formation of Aid Societies to select suitable persons to be sent out to Canada.

The House divided, and the amendment to the amendment was lost. Yeas, 33; Nays, 43.

YEAS—Messrs. Appleby, Baker, Barr, Bell, Boulter, Broder, Brown, Couits, Creighton, Deacon, Fletcher, Harkin, Kean, Lauder, Long, McDougall (Middlesex), Macdougall (Simcoe), McGowan, McRae, Meredith, Merrick, Monk, Mostyn, O'Donoghue, O'Sullivan, Patterson (Essex), Preston, Richardson, Rosevear, Scott, Tooley, Wigle, Wills—33.

NAYS—Messrs. Ballantyne, Baxter, Bethune, Bishop Bonfield, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington) Coe, Crooks, Dawson, Deroche Ferris, Finlayson, Fleming, Fraser, Gibson, Gow, Graham (Lambton), Grant, Haney, Hargrave, Hay, Hodgins, Lane, Lyon, McCrae, McLeod, McMishon, Mowat, Pardee, Patterson (York), Paxton, Robinson, Ross, Sexton, Sinclair, Springer, Striker, Watterworth, Widdifield, Williams, Wilson, Wood—43.

The amendment was lost on the same division, and the item passed.

On the item of \$56,696 for hospitals and charities,

Mr. MEREDITH complained that the Government had not included institutions which had come into existence since the Act was passed.

The item passed.

On the item of \$50,000 for unforeseen and unprovided,

Mr. MERRICK complained of the Government having made every proposal to reduce an item in the supply a Government question. The Government were strong enough to carry every motion in that way, and he hoped the Government would take off this restraint in regard to the motion which he was about to make. He moved in amendment, "That the said item of \$50,000 for unforeseen and unprovided be reduced to \$20,000." (Hear, hear, and laughter.)

Mr. MACDOUGALL said the amount