

as possible, carried out, and the Canadian National Readers were the only books in regard to which no option was given. With regard to the mechanical merits of books, there was an officer in the Department well acquainted with the business of making books, who took apart one of every class of books and thoroughly examined it. The result of his examination was placed before the Deputy-Minister, and afterwards before himself. And one of the conditions of authorization was that no book should be sold by a publisher unless it was stamped that it was authorized and that it had gone through the regular examination. The only question for him to consider was the price at which authorized books should be sold. He had pointed out to the publishers that the greater part of the value of the books which they issued was in their being authorized. But he could not know that there was a certainty of great practical results, as notwithstanding all that had been done the publishers had combined with a view to raising the price of the readers.

Mr. MERRICK—Are the prices to be charged for books fixed? as sometimes a higher price is charged than at others.

Mr. CROOKS said—If his regulation were carried out each book would bear an imprimatur, showing that it was authorized, and the price at which it was to be sold. Now that his attention had been called to the amount of business energy displayed by the publishers it would be necessary for him to show a corresponding spirit in the action of the Department. Hitherto he had been relying upon the honour of the publishers to carry out the regulations imposed, but if necessary he would even be prepared to have the Departmental stamp upon each copy of every book issued. (Cheers and laughter.) But the argument as to the advantage to the publisher of the authorization of books might be pushed too far. The tendency of teachers who were thoroughly acquainted with their duties was to use the blackboard very largely as a substitute for books. He was of course at liberty to secure the best information he could upon any subject and impart it to his pupils, and care must be taken to avoid the danger of little respect being paid to the authorization of the Department by unauthorized books being used in the schools. A text-book must be chosen—one of thorough merit could not be produced to order. The plan which he proposed to pursue would, he believed, achieve both merit and cheapness in the text-books. The publishers themselves were quite prepared to leave the matter to the decision of the Department, as to the advantage they received by the authorization of the books on the one hand, and the return which they should give in merit and cheapness of work on the other. He had ventured upon these words of explanation because many people, he believed, had too strict ideas as to the degree of economy which could be reached in the publication of these works. They seemed to some extent to lose sight of the business spirit which the publisher assumed, of the capital invested, and the energy, time, and care necessary in carrying on his business. They must not, also, forget the talent and labour of the author expended in the first production of the work. The text books used in our schools were of a mere meritorious class now than ever before, and would compare favourably with those in use in England or elsewhere. He had his duty to perform, and he would endeavour to do justice between the publishers and the public, and he would endeavour to secure the best class of books, such as would commend themselves to the teachers in the schools. He placed his position before the House for comment and criticism. (Cheers.)

Mr. METCALFE was glad to hear that there was a chance of securing uniformity in the price of authorized school books. He could not agree that the present books were in all cases superior to those formerly in use, particularly in the case of spelling books and readers. He gave the Minister of Education every credit for what he had done in the cause of education, but he thought much might yet be done to cheapen the prices of school books.

The motion was carried.

IMMIGRATION.

Mr. HAY moved for an order for a Return for the year 1878 showing:—1. The number of emigrant free passes given by the Ontario Agent at Quebec from that port to points of destination in Ontario, and the points of destination; also, the names of the boats, and by whom owned, in which such emigrants arrived at Quebec. 2. The number of emigrant free passes refused by the Ontario Agent at Quebec; the grounds of such refusal; the name of boat, and by whom owned, by which such emigrants arrived at Quebec. 3. The number of tenant farmers with capital, and the supposed amount thereof, arriving and settling within the Province in 1879. He said that before Confederation there was a large demand for labourers, and assisted passages were given to both agricultural and skilled labour emigrants by the Province. After several years, however, when the depression came it was found undesirable to continue this policy. As far back as 1872 a change was made, to give assisted passages only to agricultural labourers and female domestic servants. At the same time the Provincial Government adopted the same policy. The Dominion Government and Provincial Government agencies alone had the right to assist emigrants, but the effect of the present Dominion policy was to put this power into the hands of steamboat companies. In 1874, under the Conservative Government, great numbers were taken to choose only those for assistance who were of the proper classes. So careful were they that certificates had to be granted from local clergymen. But in spite of this many people were brought out of the classes who were not needed, but the country was not responsible for this, as the British Islands were full of steamboat agents who worked on commission and got all they could to come out. He noticed that the *Mail* claimed that the present policy was more restrictive than any before, saying that steamboat agents were not recognized. But he claimed that never in the history of the emigration annals of this country were these agents recognised or paid commissions by our Government. A passenger warrant adopted by the Government in 1878 to come into force in 1879 was addressed to agriculturists, farmers, and others intending to follow farming. This, it would be seen, opened a very wide door to all classes. He did not mean to say that paupers were sent out, but many of them were mechanics and many of them were booked as "labourers," and of course they came out with the intention of farming if they could not get anything else to do. These were all brought by the assistance of the Dominion Government—say \$5 a head—but any-

body familiar with the history of these people knew that very many of them were utterly unable to find work, and in the municipality in which he lived the Corporation and private individuals had to pay to send these people out of the country after they had been sent here at the expense of our people. He did not make any attack, because he did not think the emigration question a fit platform for such a feeling, but he pointed out that every man who came out and found himself to have been deceived by the irresponsible steamboat agent who had induced him to come out became an active agent against the whole Dominion, and wrote at once to his friends to warn them against coming to Canada. It was claimed by the *Mail* that the amount of the assisted passage was not paid by the Dominion Government until the party had settled in the country for some time, but he read the warrant, which contained an agreement signed by the intending emigrant that he would repay the amount of the assistance if within three months he did not settle in the country and follow agricultural pursuits. (Cheers.) The Ontario Government had had to station a special agent at Quebec to stop many from coming up, and they had refused passages to this part of the country to six or seven hundred people.

Mr. HARDY—Six or seven hundred heads of families, were they not?

Mr. HAY—Well, we'll say simply six or seven hundred people. I would rather be under than over the mark. The Provinces were quite ready to assist the passage of those who were needed, but they could not pay out money to encourage the immigration of those who were not needed and who had not been bargained for. Yet notwithstanding these efforts the Dominion Government had sent these parties on at their own expense. But of course the Province had to pay a large share of this expense. But whether sent or not, many of these people had come to the Province. Whether as a result of the National Policy or from whatever cause, he believed there was a smaller demand and poorer pay for labour than at any time within many years. He doubted even that at present it was wise for the Government to assist the agricultural classes. If good times were to be brought back it must be through the most stringent economy among our farmers. This must be in labour as well as in other things. Farmers had to be their own servants very largely, so that there would be less need for labourers of this class than during former years. All things considered, he was utterly at a loss to understand why the Dominion Government had adopted or why they persisted in their present policy. He believed it to be the most reckless course which any Government had followed. It was absurd to speak of any means of disposing of these people after they came, but the Dominion Government must stop the evil at its source by taking away the power of the steamboat agents. He noticed also that the very class whom it might be desirable to assist were not assisted—female domestic servants. The only reason which he could see for this omission was that the girls were not mentioned in these passage warrants. Whatever might be the reason of this policy, there could be no doubt that the only people who benefited by it were the steamboat companies; and as the Allan line did the bulk of the business, to them particularly. He believed that at least from \$10,000 to \$20,000 had been made by the steamship authorities in a single year, and this money was taken from the people of the Dominion. He, however, expressed the warmest approbation of another portion of the Dominion emigration policy—that of bringing out delegations of tenant farmers to personally inspect the resources of the country. He had no doubt that though the report which would be made by the delegates to their friends would not be so full as if they had resided in the country, yet they would receive far more credence than those of specially appointed agents. He believed that the warmest consideration and thanks of the people of this Province were due to the Dominion Government for this wise step which they had taken. (Cheers.) He desired to give them full credit for this, as he did to condemn them for their reckless handing over to irresponsible parties of such powers as they had done. (Cheers.)

Mr. HARDY said that the information asked for in the Order could all be accurately obtained except that relating to the amounts of money brought out by the tenant farmers, which could only be approximated. Last year it was thought advisable on the part of the Provincial Government to discontinue all assisted passages, and, therefore, all who were brought out last year were assisted exclusively by the Dominion Government. But an arrangement was continued by which the passage from Quebec to Toronto of immigrants intending to settle in Ontario was paid—two-thirds by this Province, and one-third by the Dominion. It was assumed, however, that that arrangement referred only to domestic servants and farm labourers. It was thought advisable that the Ontario Government should have an agent at Quebec who would be some check on the conduct of the agent of the Dominion Government, and Mr. Perce was therefore sent down. The very classes—skilled labourers, clerks, &c.—referred to by the hon. gentleman were those whom the Government had agreed with the Dominion Government not to assist, and instead of there being 600 and 700 persons refused, those figures referred to heads of families, so that the number of persons refused was more like 1,200 or 1,500.

Mr. HAY—How much did you pay of those passages?

Mr. HARDY said they had formerly paid a cent per mile, but this year the Grand Trunk claimed one cent and two-thirds per mile, and the Dominion Government sanctioned that charge without reference to the Ontario Government. Negotiations were now in progress between this Government and that at Ottawa, and between the latter and the Grand Trunk Railway, which might mitigate the increase. The Government did not wish to encourage persons to come here who were not going to settle in the Province; but if they expressed a desire on reaching Quebec to come west, it was the common practice of the Agent of the Dominion Government to send them to Toronto at the expense of the Dominion. In that way this Province was frequently burdened with the expense of those very class of immigrants we sought to discourage. They had to be sustained at the immigrant sheds here until they could be sent to some other part of the Province, entirely at the expense of the Ontario Government. A large number of persons, to the question put to them at Quebec as to whether they