

SOCIETIES ASSIST THE IMMIGRANTS.

What They Say About the Un- desirables.

SEVERAL CASES OF FRAUD.

People Suffering From Incur- able Increases Sent Here.

Steps Taken to Prevent Canada Being Made a Dumping Ground for Thrift- less People—Charges Against Some Canadian Farmers.

The experience of the various national and charitable societies of the city with the recent arrivals from Britain clearly indicates that many immigrants have been sent here by charitable societies in the old land, or have come here of their own free will without any inquiry as to the probability of their obtaining employment, or as to the season of the year when it is inadvisable for anyone without means or without a certainty of employment to come to Canada. Another very serious aspect of this apparent desire of certain agencies in Britain to dump "undesirables" in Canada has come to the knowledge of some of the local societies, whose agents have had several cases of parties suffering from tuberculosis, cancer or other incurable diseases who were assisted to come here. In some of these cases the sufferers have already been sent back to Britain, and two other cases will probably go back next week.

Irish Protestants.

The Irish Protestant Benevolent Society has not had many calls from genuine Irish Protestants recently arrived here, and such people as have called have been inquiring about work. The society has, however, had callers who sought assistance as Irish Protestants, but they were mostly from London, or some of the larger cities of the old land. In the opinion of Miss Bailie, who has had a great deal of experience with all classes of applicants for relief, it is not the genuine English, Irish, or Scotch immigrants who cause the trouble, but the classes of alien parentage who have been brought up in London or other large cities, and in whom the servile and "cadging" instinct has continued through three or even four generations. She says the genuine English immigrants are a most desirable class and very seldom seek help. The experience of the society has been that once the "undesirables" finally anchor in Toronto they become permanent charges on the funds of benevolent societies, and she gave several instances where even the third generation of those relieved years ago are now being helped. In the case of the man who died recently in a stable, and in which the jury censured the wife and family, Miss Bailie says the man was "a derelict," and that he had been again and again helped and given opportunities to succeed, but preferred to live as he had done, and that his wife and family were not to blame.

Sturdy Englishmen.

The St. George's Society has had a good many calls from recent arrivals, but mostly from those in search of employment. Many of the most deserving cases have not even come for relief, but have been found by district visitors or others. No genuine case of distress has gone unaided, and the individual members of the society have done splendid work in securing employment for new arrivals. General laborers and clerks were the most difficult cases, and it was a shame, said some of the members of the society, that these people should be induced to come to Canada in winter. Wherever possible the arrivals had been found employment, and a number had been sent to farms. Several of these, however, had come back to the city, stating that the farmers did not require their services longer, or had refused to pay them any wages for a month's work, and in some cases even longer. The number of applicants for help from new arrivals this year was said to be considerably in excess of the number of last year's applicants. Most of the members of the society seen were of the opinion that efforts should be made to prevent, as far as possible, people coming here from Britain or from any other country in search of employment during the winter months.

The Handy Irishman.

The experience of the St. Vincent de Paul Society was similar to that of the St. George's and the Irish Protestant Benevolent Societies. The recently arrived genuine Irish applicants had been largely those in search of employment, and who had taken immediately such work as could be secured for them. Several had been sent to farms, and some of these had returned with the complaint that the farmers had refused to pay them any wages. The new arrivals were on the whole readily adapting themselves to the varying conditions found here. The Catholic societies in the city were cheerfully assisting in securing work and otherwise helping the new comers. Not much real distress existed among recent arrivals in the city.

The Canny Scots.

The St. Andrew's Society has not had very many recent arrivals apply to them for help, and the expenditure for relief this year has not been exceptionally heavy. The St. Andrew's Society of Hamilton has had to spend very nearly as much in relief during

the past two or three months as has the Toronto society. Those few who have recently arrived and have sought relief, were mostly of the "corner boy" type, and not such as should come to Canada, especially in winter.

The Sons of Scotland and the other Scottish societies have had no applications for relief, but have had quite a number of recent arrivals looking for work, and in this the Sons of Scotland with its camps or branches all over Toronto, and, in fact, all over Canada, has been of great service to the immigrants.

When it was found that certain agencies in Scotland and England were inducing people to come to Canada on the pretence of being guaranteed work two days after landing, and with alleged contracts not worth the paper they were written on, pretending to insure the immediate employment, the Past Grand Secretary of the Sons of Scotland took prompt action to stop these gross misrepresentations. Copies of the alleged contracts were secured, affidavits got from parties induced to come here on the faith of these alleged contracts, and these, with other necessary documents, were placed in the hands of the proper authorities, whilst several of the deceived parties who went straight back to Britain were put in communication with the criminal officers in the old land, and then followed proceedings which have closed most of this class of immigration offices in England and Scotland, landed some of the swindlers in jail, and in other cases of alleged misrepresentation the parties are still awaiting trial. Letters were sent to a number of Scotch newspapers, warning intending emigrants to avoid these questionable agencies. Many of these letters contained valuable information for those who contemplated coming here, and doubtless this action accounts for the fact that few "derelicts" from Scotland were dumped in Canada during the past few months.

Tricks of the Trade.

Pathetic stories have been told by some of those who have been induced to come here during the present winter, but owing to the activity and generosity of the national and benevolent societies no one need really want for the necessities of life. In the cases of those cruelly sent here while suffering from incurable diseases it is thought that there should surely be some effort made to recover from those responsible for sending such immigrants to Canada, the amounts which the charitable societies and the city have to pay on account of these cases. On the other hand, there can be no doubt that a number of people posing as newly-arrived immigrants have sought relief, but the usual inquiries have revealed the fact that these applicants were the old stagers, who by calls at houses had secured and no doubt still are securing from the charitably inclined food, clothing and money on the plea of being new arrivals from the old land in search of work.

Regarding the complaint that men had been sent back from the country without wages, no doubt some farmers were perfectly justified in dispensing with the services of the men sent to them, for unfortunately some of these recent arrivals are utterly unsuited for farm work. On the other hand, a few cases have come to light in which farmers have had from one to three months' services of perfectly capable men, and have then sent them away without a cent, or in some cases after paying their railway fares to Toronto. In three cases, at any rate, unless the farmers pay they will be sued.