

supervision, but for the agent who is paid a price per head there is a continuous inducement to seek numbers regardless of quality. The general tendency of any policy of assistance is toward securing inferior people. When the migration of Europeans was not interfered with this country drew the better elements of all classes. In every grade of society and in every family it was the most self-reliant, the best informed, the most active, courageous and intelligent who emigrated, and this country received the very best elements of Europe. With the introduction of a policy of assistance there was an entire change. The indolent and dependent became available as emigration material. The waifs and strays were collected. People who if left to themselves would scarcely have heard of the colonies except as unknown regions found their way to the emigrant ships. It would be a mistake to contend that the policy of assisting immigration, as carried on by the Government and by private benevolence, has not brought many desirable acquisitions to the new world. But it has certainly resulted in the transporting of elements much lower than would have been secured had all been left to their own volition. Of methods of assistance the per capita bonus seems to be most likely to result in deterioration. Having regard for the unfavorable light in which our eager payment for population put the Dominion in comparison with the United States, the unavoidable deterioration in the quality of the people secured, and the very uncertain results, to the average citizen, of the filling up of all our great area, it seems the part of wisdom to seriously question the policy of bonusing immigration.

#### BONUSES ON IMMIGRANTS.

There has been a complaint in the British Parliament because Canada is paying only seven shillings bonus on British immigrants and twenty shillings on foreigners. The British people have apparently a right to complain about this discrimination, but the Canadian people have a much more valid ground of complaint at both bonuses. That Canada is paying bonuses to obtain immigrants, while the United States is adopting various devices to keep them out, is a bad advertisement for us and a good one for our neighbors. It is an open question if this demonstration made before the people of Europe does not more than neutralize, so far as desirable immigrants are concerned, the direct results of our immigration bonuses. During the fiscal year ending with June, 1904, we paid in bonuses \$102,663, and of that amount \$14,428 was on immigrants from the United States. This is a line of expenditure that could with profit be eliminated. The Americans who need the urging of bonused promoters are not likely to prove good citizens. The seven shillings bonus on British immigrants, with half rates on children, amounted during the same year to \$42,174. It was paid to the British agents of steamship companies and immigration societies. British sub-agents were paid five shillings per head, the total at that rate amounting to \$1,046. The most generous bonus was on Icelanders, who were paid for at the rate of £1 per head, and ten shillings for children. The total payment for these immigrants was \$2,104, which was divided between the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Allan Line. The bonus of \$2 per head paid on children made a total of \$2,608, and payments of from \$3 to \$4 per head on domestic servants made a total of \$1,088.

Detailed statements for the fiscal year just closed are not available, but the policy has been continued, somewhat to the discontent of British publicists, who think the payments are not properly adjusted. No system could tend more strongly toward the migration of undesirable classes than the per capita bonus. There may be rigid inspection and careful