

# ONTARIO EXPECTS A GREAT BIG YEAR FOR IMMIGRATION

## Director of Colonization for Ontario Looks for Great Influx This Year.

Toronto, Feb. 19.—That this will be a banner year for Ontario, so far as immigration is concerned is the opinion of Mr. H. A. Macdonnell, director of colonization for the Ontario Government. The great amount of advertising done by the department, he feels sure, is bearing fruit.

Advices from their agents in London, steamship shipping agencies and from other quarters lead the department to feel confident that not only will the number of immigrants this year break all records, but the new-comers will be sturdier in frame and better equipped with the sinews of war than ever before.

Not only from the British Isles is the influx looked for. Mr. Macdonnell instanced the case with a party in touch with continental immigration prospects, who said that he had every reason to believe that, this year, 1,000 Russo-German farmers, with their families would come out to settle in New Ontario, and not one of these families would have less than \$2,000 in money when they landed in Canada.

"There is a large demand for farm help in Ontario all the time," said Mr. Macdonnell, who went on to say that he had little sympathy with those who find fault with the unskilled labor which sometimes finds its way to the farms of Ontario.

"Some of the unskilled men get along alright," he said, "for here I have a letter from one man near Stratford who came out six years ago from the old country. Now he has a farm of his own and wants us to send him some help at once. He will pay \$20 to a suitable man, all the year round."

The reporter learned in the course of conversation, that of the 10,000 or more immigrants who stayed in Ontario last year, more than 5,000 were domestics. The demand for them is much greater than the supply.

"As a general thing," said Mr. Macdonnell, "we don't care to send men out on farms in the winter time, but sometimes it works out all right. I had a letter from a man not long ago whom we sent out on a farm in winter. His letter said that he had done so well and was so well satisfied that he wrote to his home in the old country and was instrumental in getting ten other families to come to Ontario."

That Ontario Immigration Office in London was a point of much interest to intending immigrants was stated by Mr. Macdonnell, who said they had as many as 100 applications a day sometimes. The staff of the office, throughout Great Britain, but principally in London, numbered about 20.

"I would advise every immigrant, who contemplates taking up a homestead, to put in a couple of years on an Ontario farm first," concluded Mr. Macdonnell. "He will get valuable experience there that will be worth a fortune to him when he starts out for himself."