

# GIVING CANADA A BLACK-EYE.

## False Statements of Unsuccessful Immigrants.

### THE LATEST OF THE KIND.

#### An Absurd Interview in a London Newspaper.

##### What Immigration Officers in Toronto Say—A Recent Arrival Gives an Explanation as to Why so Many Immigrants Fail.

"Beware of Canada!" is the heading of an article that recently appeared in the news columns of Reynolds' Newspaper, of London, Eng., a copy of which has been sent to The Globe by Mr. H. J. Killeen, a young Englishman of Merrickville, Ont. It is a striking example of the kind of advertisement the Dominion receives from unsuccessful immigrants.

The story is, in brief, that a young English emigrant was induced to come to Canada by an advertisement of the Government Bureau setting forth the prospects to sturdy British agriculturists in this country. Passing over his assertions that they were treated like prisoners and huddled in the forepart of the ship, for there are no means in this reference of substantiating or repudiating the story, Reynolds' Newspaper makes some grave assertions, as embodied in the youth's statements, reflecting on the Immigration Department at Toronto.

"I, together with many others, hearing there was plenty of work at Toronto," the young man is reported to have said, "decided to go to that town by rail. We afterwards learnt that this is a dodge of the dock officials at Quebec to get a large number of the emigrants out of the way. So away we went to the railroad depot, and were packed in a car with no sleeping arrangements whatever. We were all but starved to death, for nobody could afford meals at the railway restaurants."

And then comes the following astonishing statement: "The Government agent met us at the depot at Toronto, and we were driven like cattle into a huge whitewashed shed. The cold was intense, and as most of the people were thinly clad, their sufferings may be better imagined than described. . . . Immigrants' Hotel consisted of a long wooden whitewashed shed, dimly lighted by a couple of oil lamps. On each side, running the length of the building, were raised platforms of about six feet in width."

The Canadians the man speaks of as "the most stony-hearted individuals on earth," and says that "mendicants are so numerous in Canada that notices are placed on well-nigh every building." Concluding, the article quotes the interviewed as saying: "The greatness of 'our oversea Dominion' lies only in its acreage, and the greater portion of that is uninhabitable. In my opinion, there cannot be any country in the world more inhospitable to British workmen than Canada. I have been there. I know."

##### Officials Indignant.

The Globe has investigated the story, so far as the references to Toronto are concerned, and finds that Reynolds' Newspaper has been led into making statements of grave consequence, without truth in substance or fact. Mr. R. M. Persse, Immigration agent at the Union Depot, Toronto, and his assistant, Mr. J. Cadieux, when shown the clipping, were indignant. "This does not look like a whitewashed shed," said Mr. Persse, as he indicated the marble floors and pillars of the Union Depot. The reporter requested to be shown the rooms in which the immigrants were received, and was escorted into a steam-heated suite of offices, which adjoined a warm reception-room. There a half dozen young immigrants were seated, two of whom were using the tables and writing materials provided by the Government to communicate with friends at home. The railroad accommodation from Quebec is not what it should be, it is true, and more consideration should be given to the comfort of the incoming settlers. The rest of the story is utterly untrue.

"The majority of those who do not succeed in Canada belong to a worthless class, who would not succeed in any country on earth. They are without ambition, and their failures are explained by a vilification of the country," said Mr. Cadieux. "Let me give you an instance. Two young Englishmen came in and asked for work. I had a farmer who was looking for help, and asked them to return at 1.30 to meet him in the office. They went away, and did not return, though the farmer waited for more than an hour. Another young fellow was placed with a kindly Fairbanks farmer. He was to go out on Thursday night. On Friday he showed up, and explained that he had been to the opera the night before. The next day he was set to work on the farm, but after working for fifteen minutes he dropped the fork and took a car back to the city."

"Another instance is more notable. An immigrant came in on a train from the east, carrying in his pocket a recommendation to the Government office. He was placed at once with a farmer, who offered to pay him \$20 a month and his board. The wages did not suit him, and he indignantly declared that he would work for no such money. And that man," said Mr. Cadieux, with some show of indignation, "never went out of the front door of the depot. He took the first train for home."

The statement that Canadians are cold and inhospitable is doubtless due to the fact that many of the English immigrants refuse to assimilate freely. They are strangers in a strange land. They gather together in their boarding houses, may be seen hanging around the streets in twos and threes, and, instead of endeavoring to make acquaintances, become, in a sense, exclusive. Mr. Persse has made a careful study of the work of the Immigration Department, and

claims that nine-tenths of those who stay and are willing to work succeed.

##### One Englishman's Experience.

"Six out of ten fellows who came out from England with me three months ago have returned to the old land," said the young mechanic to The Globe the other day. "How do you account for that?" he was asked. "Well, I hate to say it about my own countrymen," he replied, "but really it was because they were so good. I was thrown into their company a good deal in crossing the Atlantic, and I was with them for a while after our arrival in Toronto. I soon found that they were undesirable companions. They were offered, and accepted, positions at salaries larger than they ever earned in England, but they were a discontented lot. One of them got a job in the same shop as that I am working in now, but he was lazy and indifferent about his work, with the result that he was discharged, and I was not at all surprised. Two others seemed to think that in this country they would be able to have a good time without working at all, and they spent their days in walking around the streets and in frequenting the saloons until their money was exhausted."

"How do I like this country? I think it is fine, and I am certainly going to stay here. I got a job two days after I came to Toronto. The wages at first were a little more than I was earning at home, but now I am making close on to twice as much, and the work is easy at that. My expenses are only very slightly higher than they were in England. My friends in England said that I would be back in a few months, but they made a mistake. I met Englishmen out here who told me that Canada was a poor place, and that I had better take their tip and make tracks for home again, as they intended to do shortly. I sized them up, however, as belonging to the same class of gentry as those I had met in crossing the pond, and my experience proves that I was right."

##### He Understands Now.

"When I first went around in search of work I found employers prejudiced against Englishmen. I did not understand it then, but I do now. Quite a number of my countrymen have been given a trial in my shop, but scarcely any of them have been worth their salt, and those that were are now drawing good wages. I made up my mind that I was going to succeed if hard work would do it, and I have been successful beyond my expectations. I expect to be drawing foreman's wages shortly, owing to the weeding out of men who were above me, because of drinking and other bad habits. The fellow who does not succeed here would not, in my mind, succeed anywhere, and the chances are that he was walking the streets at home before he decided to emigrate."