

TUKE FUND IMMIGRANTS.

About 5,300 Sent Out This Year—One-third to Canada.

GENERALLY FAVOURABLE REPORTS SENT HOME.

A few days ago this city was visited by Messrs. H. Hodgskin and R. Rutledge, two English gentlemen representing the Tuke Committee, now engaged in promoting immigration from Ireland to Canada and the United States. They state that the Committee sent out this year 5,300 people, of whom about 1,700 came to Canada. The majority of these immigrants into the Dominion remained in the older Provinces, those in Quebec being mainly in the Eastern Townships, while those in Ontario are scattered pretty well throughout the Province. About 300 went through to Manitoba.

FAVOURABLE REPORTS.

The committee have been much encouraged by the accounts sent home by those sent out last year. One man writes to his friends in Irish phonetics and with virtuous resolve, "This is a good place for any one that will keep from drink. It is very chape here. I could get a quart of whiskey for a shilling, but I didn't take the second glass since I came here, or I won't." Another says, "This is a fine country; no one need be in want that can work." Another, "I was only twenty minutes at the hotel before I was engaged on a farm. Wages are good here; this is a fine country." One letter shows that those coming out seek to assist their friends at home: "I will write you again in ten days time when T — is paid, and send you something, but it can't be much this time." Messrs. Hodgskin & Rutledge say that the reports received since these letters were written are equally favourable, and show that the people take readily to work, and that they are industrious and thrifty from the first. The representatives of the committee make the present visit to find out for themselves the condition of those whom they have assisted, and the capabilities of the country for placing those whom it is proposed to send out hereafter.

THE WORK OF THE TUKE COMMITTEE.

As explained by the visitors, seems calculated to do a vast amount of good among the poor people whom they seek to benefit. Hitherto the emigration, especially from the poorer districts of Ireland, has been of the young and vigorous people. The Tuke Committee are making the first organized effort to send out whole families. They confine their operations to the west coast, where the poverty and distress are the most woeful. The holdings in many cases are so small and poor that it is utterly impossible for the residents to eke out an existence, even if they pay no rent. There used to be a little fishing done, but the fish are now, for some reason, seeking the deeper water at a distance from shore, and the people have no boats fit to carry them out to the fishing grounds. There is no object in catching fish except for the use of the inhabitants themselves. The villages near the coast could not consume any considerable quantity of fish. The surplus, if there was any market, would have to go to Dublin, and by the time the fish reached there, after all the delays, it would not be saleable. But now the coast people find it almost impossible to catch fish even for their own consumption.

EMIGRATE OR STARVE.

The vast majority of the poor people are willing and anxious to emigrate, for to many of them the choice seems to be between emigration and starvation. When the passengers for a vessel are to be selected the office of the committee is fairly besieged by the unfortunates entreating the favour of being helped to reach America. Mr. Hodgskin describes it as simply heartrending to be obliged to tell some people that they must wait perhaps for weeks before it will be possible to give them a passage. "What can we do in those weeks? We must starve if we can't go away," they say, despairingly, but, as it is impossible to take all, some terrible cases of distress must be left for a time unassisted. The effort of the committee is, as far as possible, to send out those who have friends, and to place them as near those friends as possible. Each emigrant is given clothes, and his passage is paid through to his very destination, even though it be in Manitoba, and care is taken that when he arrives he shall have money in his pocket. All this, as it may readily be imagined, costs a great deal, but the expense to the committee has been considerably reduced by the grant from the British Government of £5 per head for the people sent out. The work of the Committee has been thoroughly systematized and no emigrant is sent out whose case has not been carefully investigated and every reasonable precaution taken to insure his success in his new home. It is expected that the number sent out next year will be limited only by the funds at the disposal of the Committee, and hopes are entertained that much suffering will be relieved by means of emigration, as private subscriptions to the fund are coming in liberally.

Messrs. Hodgskin and Rutledge expect to return from the North-West in about three weeks.