COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 46,
HOUSE OF COMMONS
WEDNESDAY, 25th May, 1898.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met this day at 11 o'clock a.m.; Mr. Bain, Chairman, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN:—We have with us this morning the Deputy Minister of the Interior, whom I have asked to give us a short review of the immigration work of the Department.

Mr. JAMES A. SMART, Deputy Minister of the Interior, addressed the Committee as follows:—

Mr. Chairman,—As I did not fully understand the invitation I had from the Committee I did not prepare any statement in writing to submit to you. However, I may be able to give you a short outline of the work we are doing at present both in the old country and the United States, where our work is being largely carried on. In England, as the Committee is probably aware, our work is carried on under the direction of the High Commissioner, who exercises a general supervision of the work, conducts correspondence with the agents in Great Britain and Ireland, pays the salaries and expenses, and also communicates with and directs the actions of agents on the continent.

By Mr. Wilson:

Q. Does that only apply to England?
A. To Great Britain and Ireland.

Q. To the whole United Kingdom?
A. Yes, and also, I may say, to the European work, which is comparatively small so far as agents are concerned, and has not, up to this present, assumed very large proportions. We have now Professor Oleskow working in Austria. He is a gentleman who, some years ago, came out to Canada and interested himself so much in the North-west Territories that he encouraged the emigration of Galicians to Canada, and as a result of his work during the last few yars 5,000 or 6,000, in round numbers, of those people have been sent forward. He has not sent all of these, but mostly people of the better class, and through this class coming there has been an encouragement on the part of the steamship agents to forward those not so desirable, perhaps, as those sent by Professor Oleskow.

Q. He is our agent?
A. He was not at that time, but he was appointed agent for Canada during the winter. Up to that time his work was done without remuneration of any kind. Since then we have engaged his services to send out the most desirable of those people who can be found in Austria and who are willing to move. Since his appointment we have had 1,200 or 1,500 of these people, and I understand a large number of them are now in Halifax, detained there on account of one or two cases of smallpox. They will be detained in quarantine possibly one or two weeks.