

IMMIGRATION

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

COMMITTEE ROOM No. 34,

WEDNESDAY, February 15, 1911.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met at 11 o'clock a.m., Mr. M. S. Schell, chairman, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN.—As you have noticed from the agenda paper, we have with us this morning Mr. W. D. Scott, Superintendent of Immigration, who is to give an address on the work of his branch. It is now two or three years since he last appeared before this committee, and the work entrusted to his care is of such importance that we feel sure he will have something valuable to communicate in reference to immigration. I have much pleasure in calling upon Mr. Scott.

Mr. W. D. SCOTT.—As I have not appeared before this committee since 1908, I consider it wise to enter into a brief review of the policy and work of the department with which I am connected, giving an opportunity to members, after I have finished this review, to question me upon any points which I have omitted or upon which they require elaboration.

The policy of the department at the present time is to encourage the immigration of farmers, farm labourers, and female domestic servants from the United States, the British Isles, and certain northern European countries, namely, France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Iceland.

On the other hand, it is the policy of the department to do all in its power to keep out of the country undesirables, which for the purpose of this review I will divide into three classes:—

1. Those physically, mentally or morally unfit, whose exclusion was provided for by Act of Parliament last session.
2. Those belonging to nationalities unlikely to assimilate, and who consequently prevent the building up of a united nation of people of similar customs and ideals.
3. Those who from their mode of life and occupations are likely to crowd into urban centres, and bring about a state of congestion which might result in unemployment and a lowering of the standard of our national life.

While neither the law nor the Orders-in-Council passed thereunder absolutely prohibit the landing in Canada of persons belonging to the second and third classes mentioned, still their entry has been made extremely difficult by the passing of Orders-in-Council Nos. 926, 918 and 920 which, briefly stated, provide that all persons of Asiatic origin must have in their possession, and in their own right at time of landing, the sum of \$200 each in cash; that all immigrants coming from countries issuing passports or penal certificates shall be required to produce either or both at time of arrival, and that all immigrants must come by a continuous journey from the country of their birth or citizenship, and on tickets purchased in that country or prepaid in Canada. None of these Orders-in-Council in any way interfere with the entry into Canada of desirable citizens or subjects of the countries I have already mentioned as being those from which immigration is encouraged, but they do put