

but otherwise we would never be able to get through this at all. I would suggest definitely that instead of going through all these accounts, item by item, we should indicate the accounts we really want looked into, and ask the management to bring down appropriate statement; then when that is done, it is done, and we will save a lot of time. We got rid of a lot of these accounts the other day by my taking them up with the management in the afternoon, and practically agreeing upon the results, and I think perhaps we could do that with others and limit it as much as we can. Then there is one other thing we should do. The real function of this committee ought to be more consultive and advisory than anything else, and I think we should give some indication during our sittings as to what our views are as to general policies to be followed.

The CHAIRMAN: And embody that in our report to Parliament?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: We might do that here, and I doubt if we could crystallize it into a report. Take for example this question we are on, this immigration question, we could discuss this for weeks. This one point of group settlement could be discussed for a week, and even then the subject would not be exhausted.

Sir HENRY THORNTON: May I say that would be, to us, a very valuable thing, because here is a question: shall we pursue group settlement or individual settlement, or shall we throw out group settlement altogether? If the administration could sit down with such a committee as this and discuss the question and determine upon a policy, we could proceed with some degree of certainty.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I was just going to indicate generally what seems to be one or two of the underlying difficulties.

Mr. HARRIS: Is it not the fact that you gathered a good deal of that from the discussions in the House?

Sir HENRY THORNTON: Yes, but I think such a committee as this gives an opportunity for fuller and more advantageous discussion.

The CHAIRMAN: I am not sure that this committee has any authority to deal with policies.

Mr. KYTE: We can suggest anything.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I think we are supposed to be here in an advisory capacity.

Mr. STEWART: Is it not always the fact that we have the privilege of discussing the policy when the estimates are up?

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: In this connection, what we are now talking about, it does seem to me that we are doing very very little in immigration. In the first instance, I should think what the management would be chiefly concerned in, would be getting the proper co-ordination between the different activities in connection with this matter. We have not it to-day. We have the C.P.R. with agents at one place; the National Railways with agents at the same place, and in some instances the government with agents also there. We should not have that overlapping, not only in connection with expenses, but what is far more important, in connection with the useful results obtained. Here, for example, we have those men in northern Ontario that I mentioned. You could find a lot of cases like that throughout the country. I think Mr. Robb will agree with me that the very first thing to be done is to get unification in connection with this.

The WITNESS: Yes, that is right.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: And the next thing to do is to know what we are going to do. We do not today.

The WITNESS: We know what we are going to do.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: I do not think any of us know. Here you have people coming over here; they are taken hold of when they get here; there is an argu-

[Mr. W. D. Robb.]