

IMMIGRATION---FARM LABORERS AND DOMESTIC SERVANTS

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

ROOM No. 32,

WEDNESDAY, March 6, 1912.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met at 11 a.m., the Chairman, Mr. Sexsmith, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN.—We have Mr. W. D. Scott, Superintendent of Immigration, with us this morning and he will address the committee on what the department has been doing in the matter of supplying farm labour.

Mr. SCOTT.—Mr. Chairman, I am here this morning in response to an order of this committee 'for the purpose of informing the members what has been done and what is now the policy of the department in regard to supplying immigrants for farm labour and domestic service throughout the country.' Before dealing with this matter in detail, I may mention that I appeared before the Committee on Agriculture and Colonization on February 15, 1911, and at that time gave a rather full outline of the policy of the department, both in regard to the countries in which an immigration propaganda is being carried on and as to the classes the department was catering for. I enumerated the points at which immigration offices were maintained, dealt with the question of newspaper advertising and bonus payments, and touched upon the Orders in Council which had been passed under the Immigration Act further restricting the classes who may legally enter Canada. As the evidence I gave one year ago equally applies to the policy at the present time, and as there are many new members in this committee, I mention my former appearance here as a perusal of the evidence then given, which appears on pages 113 to 129 of the 'Report of the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization for the Third Session, 11th Parliament,' may be interesting to some and will render it unnecessary for me to cover the same ground this morning.

By Mr. Morphy:

Q. What year was that?

A. Last year, 1911. I may say in commencement that the policy of the department is to cater for farmers, farm labourers and female domestic servants. No inducement is held out to other classes, and in all literature distributed by the department a notice appears which reads as follows:—

Farmers, farm labourers and female domestic servants are the only people whom the Canadian Immigration Department advises to go to Canada.

All others should get definite assurance of employment in Canada before leaving home, and have money enough to support them for a time in case of disappointment.

The proper time to reach Canada is between the beginning of April and the end of September.