

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

COMMITTEE ROOM No. 62,

WEDNESDAY, May 13, 1908.

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

The CHAIRMAN.—We have met this morning for the purpose of resuming the examination of Mr. W. D. Scott, in the matter of immigration. Mr. Scott will continue from where he left off at our previous meeting.

Mr. SCOTT.—At the last meeting of the Committee which I attended I was explaining to you the system upon which the British bonuses were paid and checked. I had taken, for purposes of illustration, the Allan SS. *Victorian* which arrived at Halifax on the 20th of March of this year. I have already explained that the immigrant signed an application for a ticket setting forth the fact that he had a year's experience in farm labour, and that was forwarded to Ottawa, and it was upon that application, together with the examination made by the immigration agent at the ocean port of arrival, that the bonuses were paid. This particular ship, the *Victorian*, arrived at Halifax with 838 passengers on board. Of this number 505 were classed as immigrants, 78 as going to the United States, 208 as returned Canadians and 8 as tourists.

By Mr. Owen:

Q. You said there was an examination, an examination for what?

A. Where, at the ocean port?

Q. Yes?

A. There is a medical examination and a civil examination. First the immigrant is medically examined and then he is civilly examined and the civil examination—

Q. Is the immigrant medically examined in order to ascertain if he is suffering from disease?

A. Yes, as to whether he is suffering from disease. That is the medical examination. Then he is civilly examined as to his name, his last occupation prior to sailing, how long so engaged, how long engaged as a farmer, farm labourer, gardener, and so on, and when and where, as to whether he was a British subject by birth or naturalization, his destination in Canada, his intended occupation in Canada, if ever he had been in Canada before and how much money he had with him.

Q. Do I understand that every steamship passenger who is forwarded to this country by a booking agent is examined thoroughly?

A. All except first class passengers. First class passengers are not medically examined unless in the case of a foreigner occupying a first class stateroom. According to the arrangement made with the steamship company, if they have a foreigner in a first class cabin they produce him for the inspection of the medical officer, that being the condition—that we would not examine other first class passengers, provided the company produced foreigners who travelled in that class for examination. I have prepared a statement showing the number of immigrants that have landed at our ocean ports for a number of years.

By Mr. Wilson (Lennox):

Q. You gave us that statement at the last meeting, did you not?

A. No. I will hand in the statement for the information of the Committee.