

Mr. HENRY: I think, generally speaking, our equipment is in first-class condition. That would be illustrated by taking for example the average condition of our freight cars in 1923 as compared with 1922. I think the percentage of bad order cars, for instance, was 6.2 per cent in 1923, whereas it was a little over 10 per cent the previous year. That shows it is in pretty fair shape.

Mr. HARRIS: And your retirements help out considerably; the more retirements you have, the more it helps you out.

Mr. HENRY: The car retirements, of course, increase our expenses.

The CHAIRMAN: We will take "Traffic Expenses" now. Item 356. Mr. HARRIS, were you content with what is given in the first part of the report, or do you want further information on that?

Mr. HARRIS: No, I will let it go at that.

Mr. STEWART: In connection with that item, I do not know just as to what form these immigration bureaus are taking. Have we any statistics which have been compiled to show us how effective that branch of the Canadian National Railways will be or is it so interwoven with the Immigration Department that we could not get fair figures?

Major BELL: This year it is just being organized; I think it was in September or October that Mr. Black went over.

Mr. HENRY: The Colonization Department was not really organized until about the end of the year.

Major BELL: So next year you will have a full statement of the work. It was really just in the process of being organized when this report was being prepared.

Mr. STEWART: If it had not been taken into account, I should offer the suggestion that the figures be so placed before us as to enable us to make comparisons with other colonization schemes.

The CHAIRMAN: You mean the number of immigrants that could be obtained as the result of this expenditure?

Mr. HENRY: That is our purpose.

Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: It is a pretty big policy. When we come to the estimates in the House, I would like a synopsis of the organization.

Major BELL: We will have that for you.

Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: There is an item there you have not looked at—

Major BELL: Let me give an explanation in connection with that. In addition to Mr. Black, Mr. Dalrymple, our vice-president in charge of traffic, has just got overseas; he is at present in the Old Country going very fully into the organization, and that work will not be complete until he gets back; he is working on it now. There has been so much to do in Canada that he was not able to get over last year.

Mr. MILNE: Is this railway immigration organization entirely independent of the Government department?

Major BELL: Absolutely independent, but working with them wherever it is necessary.

Mr. MILNE: Would you have two offices in the same city, for instance?

Major BELL: Yes; the Canadian Pacific has offices all over the Continent, as well as in London.

Mr. MILNE: But they have not an immigration department, like we have?

Major BELL: Yes; they have had one for years.