

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

COMMITTEE ROOM, No. 62,

Wednesday, April 29, 1908.

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

THE CHAIRMAN.—As you will notice by the motion read from the minutes, it was decided at the last meeting that Mr. W. D. Scott, Superintendent of Immigration, be summoned to appear before the committee at its present meeting for examination on the subject of immigration into Canada. I am sorry that Mr. Monk, at whose instance Mr. Scott was summoned, is unable to be present to-day. This will necessitate, perhaps, some change in the arrangement made. Had Mr. Monk been able to be present he would have conducted Mr. Scott's examination. Now in view of his absence there is a difference of opinion amongst the committee as to what should be done. Some members have suggested that we should postpone this meeting and ask Mr. Scott to attend on a subsequent occasion; others think that it would be better to proceed with the examination of Mr. Scott to-day, when it is possible that the information desired by Mr. Monk may be brought out. By adopting the latter course we may save the time of Mr. Scott and also that of the committee.

MR. SPROULE.—I think it would be better to proceed, allowing Mr. Scott to make a statement in regard to immigration and then any members desirous of examining him can do so.

THE CHAIRMAN—Very well then, we will ask Mr. Scott to proceed with his address.

MR. SCOTT.—The work of the Immigration Branch, possibly more than any other department of the government, is of such a character that frequent changes in the methods of procedure are necessary to secure the most satisfactory results. Hundreds of propositions are yearly placed before the department showing how Canada may be prominently brought before the countries whose climatic conditions promise a suitable class of settlers for the Dominion and on the department rests the responsibility for sifting all propositions, putting into operation such as deemed worthy of trial and rejecting those of whose ultimate success there appears to be doubt.

METHODS EMPLOYED.

The principal methods adopted at the present time for bringing Canada's claims prominently before the emigrating population of suitable countries is by payment of bonuses to steamship booking agents, payment of bonuses to sub-agents in the United States, advertising in the press, distribution of literature, lecturing tours of farm delegates, display of Canadian products in government offices, booking agents offices and in moving wagons or motor cars, and lastly by maintaining at the most advantageous points offices in charge of salaried agents whose duties are to keep Canada's claims to the forefront and make every effort to secure suitable settlers.