

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE

ON

IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR

The Hon. T. O. DAVIS, *Chairman.*

The Honourable Messieurs:—Beith, Bolduc, Dandurand, David, Frost, Jaffray, Riley, Thorne, Watson.

THE SENATE.

COMMITTEE ROOM No. 28.

WEDNESDAY, May 6, 1914.

The Standing Committee on Immigration and Labour met this day at 10.30 a.m.

Present: The Hon. T. O. Davis, Chairman, Hon. Messieurs Bolduc, Dandurand, Jaffray and Riley.

The CHAIRMAN.—There is a lady here who wishes to address the Committee on some questions relating to immigration. We will call on the lady before we call on Mr. Robertson.

MISS ST. JOHN WILEMAN.—First of all, gentlemen, I would like to pay a tribute of thanks to the late Sir George Ross, who before his death was a very warm and strong supporter of the subject which I am bringing before you. His death is much to be regretted.

The subject which I wish to bring before you this morning is one of International importance. It has now the practical working support of almost every civilized country including Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Norway, the States of the United States, the Argentine Republic, and other countries. It has dated its first work from 1865, which is a practical proof of the working out of the system, in the data that may be obtained from it, and also of the practical benefits which it may be to the various communities which have adopted it.

At the present moment, it seems to me, Canada is perhaps facing the crisis which every nation has to face. After a period of financial depression which comes in the life of every nation, from various causes, there is inevitably a very big wave of unemployment over the whole country. The United States fare, possibly, worse than Canada, but Canada is feeling it. I speak from practical experience. I have had the privilege of starting and working the first public Labour Bureau in Canada. In the course of a year I have given employment to 3,000 men of all trades and all nationalities. It was done really as an experiment, to see how the system which has worked such wonderful results in other countries should be adapted to your own country's particular idiosyncrasies.

The system to which I refer is that of a free public labour bureau whereby the employer and the employee may find a common meeting ground where both sides get justice, efficiency, fair play and business dealing, where abuses and defects in the