

time and office help than the mere taking of the homestead entries. The inspection of the homesteads and the issuing of patents begin three years after the entry is made, so that with regard to the large rush of entries which took place three years ago, two years ago and last year, the work is only beginning. Up to last year, this work was not nearly so great because the entries three years previously were much less numerous. But this year and next we shall have to deal with a tremendously large number of applications for patent. Therefore, although the number of homestead entries is not as large as last year, our work has increased because of the large number of entries of the previous years.

Department of Indian Affairs—salaries, \$67,100; contingencies, \$15,375.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Would the hon. minister give us the number of inside officials and the number in the outside service and some idea of the general expense?

Mr. OLIVER. There are about fifty in what is called the inside service and some three hundred in the outside service, that is who are paid salaries. But there are besides a very large number who are paid fees. That number I am unable at present to give.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Would the hon. minister tell us whether that three hundred is in excess of the same class of officials in 1906?

Mr. OLIVER. I am unable to give the actual figures, but my information is that the number is practically the same. If there is an increase, it is very trifling.

Mr. FOSTER. I see that under these, we have the name of Mr. Bryce, medical inspector. The minister has no doubt seen his report on the Indian schools. That report shows a lamentable condition of affairs especially with regard to sanitary conditions. How does the hon. gentleman explain that? Have those in charge of the schools been altogether careless or inefficient, or is this due to lack of inspection and supervision? Was this the first time medical or some inspector made the first round of these institutions and reported on them?

Mr. OLIVER. As the Indian schools are not directly under the management of the government, it would be well perhaps that I should not venture at the moment to account for the facts stated by Dr. Bryce. We have inspectors whose business it is to inspect all matters connected with the Indians. These men have from time to time inspected the schools, but I think that this recent visit of Dr. Bryce was the first occasion on which a general and comprehensive inspection was made regarding the conditions of health. No doubt my hon. friend was startled at the conclusions of Dr. Bryce. They certainly require very careful consideration,

Mr. OLIVER.

and I assure my hon. friend they are receiving that consideration.

Mr. FOSTER. I suppose at another time the minister will be prepared to tell us what measures have been taken. We give a large amount of money, and the results seem quite inadequate. What struck me most was the almost appalling carelessness regarding the health of the students, causing such mortality.

Mr. OLIVER. As regards the mortality, I might say that while the mortality shown in Dr. Bryce's report is certainly appalling, on the other hand it has been represented to us that the conditions in that respect within the schools are no worse than those outside.

Mr. FOSTER. But they ought to be better.

Mr. OLIVER. I am not in my own defence in this case. I am simply giving the argument as it was given us. The matter is of course one of very grave importance. It has been taken up with the authorities who are in direct charge. I think that I shall be in a better position a little later on to go into the matter more fully and deal with the suggestions I shall submit to the House in due time.

Mr. FOSTER. That is a very reasonable position to take, and when the time for that discussion comes the minister ought to be able to make some suggestions. It strikes me we had better get out of the business altogether, if, with the large expenditure of money and the end aimed at of really doing some good to the Indian children, we cannot do better than has been done in the past. The subject of education is a very difficult one as has been found both in the United States and in Canada. It may ultimately be shown to be folly to attempt, to adopt what you might call higher methods of education for these children, and that the best thing to do is to teach them farming or some trade. I would not say that all the money heretofore has been wasted, but when you come to pick up the beneficial results I am afraid it would take a fine-tooth comb to get hold of it.

Mr. BLAIN. What is the result of the legal contest that has been going on for some time between the province of Ontario and the Dominion government in respect to Indian lands?

Mr. OLIVER. The case recently dealt with by the courts begins with the Northwest Angle treaty made in the seventies when the western boundaries of Ontario were not defined. A treaty was made by the Dominion government for the purpose of buying from the Indians the land over which they had rights. The land was purchased and the cost and expenses in connection therewith paid out of the Dominion treasury. Afterwards a part of the land