

say that forage could not be raised for less than \$58,000. They have plenty of land and can hire labor, and I venture to say that the forage could be raised for less than \$20,000.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I fancy that if the hon. gentleman became a farmer he would find there was not much money in the operation by contract.

Mr. CASEY. I have farmed all my life and by contract. To farm per acre would not cost over \$12 or \$15 per acre, and that would be a pretty high figure. At this price \$58,000 would easily cultivate from 4,000 to 6,000 acres. Oats will readily yield fifty bushels an acre, and 200,000 or 300,000 bushels could be raised for the amount put down for forage, while hay only costs there the labor for cutting. Regarding medicine and medical comforts and hospital expenses, there is an increase of \$3,000, while \$5,000 less are required for pay, and \$18,000 for food. How is this?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. We are fitting up an hospital at Regina; and there will also be a new hospital at McLeod and Calgary. Of course, mind you, we have now 500 instead of 300 men.

Mr. CASGRAIN. How is it that we have \$58,000 for forage, which is there only needed for about five months in winter; and even then prairie horses which can find grass under the snow, can be used. These horses can be left out all winter and be caught in the spring. This item under the circumstances is enormous and preposterous. The food of 360 horses should not cost so much, unless somebody else is behind the manger to swallow it.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I really do not think that if my hon. friend had to go before the Minister of Militia and stand his examination as captain of cavalry, he would pass his examination. I think he would be plucked. These horses are very hardly worked, and the police are very hardly worked. They are constantly in the saddle; and the idea of turning the horses on the grass, and of getting little prairie ponies to be caught with the lasso when wanted to go off on a hard journey across the country, perhaps with prisoners and perhaps on an expedition to watch Indians, and of their riding on horses which would leave marks wherever they went, and green ones at that, across the country—is absurd. These horses must be kept in the highest state of efficiency and vigor, the same as cavalry horses, and they must be continually fed on oats and on dry food.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Ten lbs. of oats are the ration for an ordinary horse, and 11 lbs. for an artillery horse; and the idea of voting \$58,000 for oats and forage appears to me to be entirely preposterous. I know something about horses, and 10 lbs. of oats are the ration for an ordinary military horse in the Army Regulations. On the prairies the horses can be picketed. Unless details are given, for my part, when we come to concurrence, I think that we will have something more to say respecting this item.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I might suggest to my hon. friend from L'Islet that the animal of Artemus Ward, of which we heard something last night, may have some of the rations out of this \$58,000.

Mr. CHARLTON. I see that Baker & Co. charged, last year, \$13,779 for hay, oats, and bran; and the Hudson's Bay Company, \$19,696 for hay, oats, and bran. Will the hon. gentleman inform us as to the prices which are paid for these rations?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The prices vary very much in that country, but the price is from 3 cts. to 7 cts. per lb. The estimate is 400 horses at 40 cts. a day.

Mr. CHARLTON. I see that the expenses last year showed an average of \$206 a horse, which seems a large sum.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. A horse's rations when they are stationary at head-quarters is 9 lbs. per day, but when travelling they are 16 lbs., and sometimes when hard worked 18 lbs.

219. Amount required for surveys, Dominion lands... \$600,000 00

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Perhaps, instead of making a speech, I may give the information in the more condensed form in which it appears in the memoranda supplied to me from the Department:

"This sum is \$150,000 in excess of the vote for the current fiscal year. "During the past season the outlines of 800 townships were run, and about 800 townships more were sub-divided and set out for settlement. This season it is expected that the outlines of 800 more townships will be run, and from 1,000 to 1,200 will be sub-divided into quarter sections and set out for settlement.

"These surveys are being prosecuted chiefly along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and although the sub-division of townships last season was upon a scale having no parallel in history, we were still unable to do more than keep pace with the progress of settlement. The prospects of immigration being this year so promising, it is probable that the history of last year will be repeated.

"This spring has been much more favourable than last. Our survey parties got started much earlier than usual, the state of the roads was exceptionally good, the crossing of the streams was much more speedily and successfully accomplished, operations in the field have been commenced earlier and more auspiciously than ever before, and the prospect is that we shall accomplish not only much more work than last year, but that the surveys, although more remote and less accessible than heretofore, will be made at a comparatively less cost to the country.

"The old settlements on the North Saskatchewan—Edmonton and St. Albert—have been surveyed into river lots. Surveys have also been made of lands granted to Colonization Companies, and these latter will be continued and as far as possible completed this season.

"Sub-division surveys of agricultural lands in the Edmonton and Prince Albert country were also made last season, and Prince Albert region, which is expected soon to have the benefit of railway communication, will receive a considerable share of attention this year.

"The Icelandic reserve will be surveyed also, and detached surveys will be made at other points, as the requirements of settlers necessitate.

"The system of having the sub-division of townships performed by contract, although it has its weak points, is thought on the whole to be the best, and is decidedly the most economical. The work is done very cheaply, and on the whole fairly well."

I will now read the memorandum from Capt. Deville, the Chief Inspector of Surveys:

"The scheme proposed for the surveys of 1883, comprises the sub-division into sections of about 1,000 townships, extending from Regina to the Rocky Mountains, along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and a few townships in the vicinity of Prince Albert, Battleford and Edmonton.

"The cost is estimated at \$450 per township.

"The whole of this work is performed under contract at so much per mile of line surveyed.

"Thirty surveyors, under daily pay, will be employed for running the exterior lines of township. It is expected that they will, during the season, survey the outlines of 1,100 townships. Two parties have been working in the Peace River District for the last twelve months, establishing some main or governing lines from which surveys may be started whenever required. It is proposed to keep those two parties in the same district during the coming season.

"The cost of surveys, under daily pay, is estimated at \$250,000.

"For miscellaneous expenses, such as examination of surveys, in the field, examination of survey returns, printing of plans, &c., \$50,000, making altogether a total of \$750,000.

"Of this amount, \$600,000 are placed in the Estimates for 1883-84, and \$150,000 will be included in the Supplementary Estimates.

"This is the last year when it will be necessary to prosecute the surveys on such a large scale, as the sub-division of townships will be completed from twenty-five to forty miles on each side of the railway. Future operations may be confined to the localities required for immediate settlement.

"The grant for this year is the largest that has ever been, and probably that will ever be asked. Taking this into consideration, it is gratifying to know that there is every prospect of a very successful surveying season, so that adequate returns may be expected for the money expended. Surveyors, if not already at work, will commence in a few days. In a new country where so many unforeseen circumstances combine to thwart the most elaborate plans, the results obtained so far are a matter of congratulation."

That is all the information I can give with regard to the surveys.

Mr. CHARLTON. I notice one or two items in the accounts in connection with the surveys last year, which I think are a little irregular. One D. B. Billings renders an