

happens to be the head of the branch who recommends to the minister expenditures under this head. Not only is Dr. Deville a competent official but I think he is one of the very few examples—if not the only one—where the undoubted and admitted head of his profession in this Dominion is, in so far as his profession is concerned, at the head of the service. I do not think there is any one in the Dominion who compares with Dr. Deville in his own profession, and it is fortunate we have him in our employ. I am sure if the minister goes over these estimates with Dr. Deville with this end in view he will be able to co-operate with him, and he can then come back to this committee quite readily and agree to a total expenditure of \$500,000 for this service.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Dr. Deville submitted an estimate of \$760,000 this year. I am very glad indeed to hear the remarks of my hon. friend eulogizing Dr. Deville and his work because he has already cut the estimate of last year for the simple reason—and I think that reason should be apparent—that we were anxious, as individuals who had no information, that the officials of this department should be able at least to get along with the appropriation of last year instead of asking for an increase. Therefore, Dr. Deville has already cut this appropriation by \$160,000. Now I am not able to argue—

Mr. MEIGHEN: But he increased it.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): —as to all he had in mind. I am referring the hon. gentleman to what he has just said in praise of this official. Naturally, if all the things he has said of Dr. Deville are true, he is an official who must realize his responsibility when submitting his estimates to the minister; and if he has already cut \$160,000 I think it is only fair to say that he has made an honest endeavour to get his estimate to the point where he would be able to render the service that he has been asked for from various parts of Canada. Now possibly Dr. Deville could get along—undoubtedly he could if he had to—on \$300,000. There can be no question about that; and unless I am able to ascertain there is a very serious need, when I become more fully acquainted with this department—more fully acquainted with the surveys branch of the department—there can be a very substantial reduction made in the cost of surveys. I cannot agree with the hon. member however that all the added cost came about on account of the surveys necessary for soldier

settlement because a very large proportion of the soldier settlement—a very large proportion in the province of Alberta—was made upon the crown lands. There was a fair amount it is true but nothing that would indicate the necessity for an increase from \$400,000 to \$600,000 of survey work. Therefore I offer to accept the suggestion which has been made for a reduction but I am not prepared to accept any greater reduction.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. member from Bow river desire to reduce the amount in the amendment to \$30,000?

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I understand the minister has himself stated his willingness to cut his estimate by \$30,000, and I think I might withdraw the motion altogether on that understanding.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the committee that the amendment be withdrawn?

Mr. GUTHRIE: What does the minister say?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I move to reduce the total estimate by \$30,000.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The minister does not appreciate the position. Dr. Deville comes to him with his estimates. Last year's was \$600,000 reduced from \$700,000 the year before. He comes with \$760,000. This represents the surveys Dr. Deville has been asked to perform. I would not dispute that probably Dr. Deville is right, and that in time those surveys must be performed, and it was his duty to come to the minister and ask for sufficient money to have them performed. But that does not say that we must push into these territories this year. He had added \$160,000 before he took anything off. Having added \$160,000, he deducts that amount. All the minister has to do is to say to Dr. Deville "We want to make an equal reduction with the year before", and he should be able to do it, because the expenses of surveys this year are not as much as the expenses last year. He knows that the expenses of equipment and of surveys are not as large this year. Things have gone down. He can get the same amount of work done with less money than last year. There should be no difficulty in making a reduction equal to last year's reduction, and, unless he does that, he makes no substantial reduction. Why can he not come down in the estimate? Even then, the estimate is higher than it ever was before the necessities of the soldiers' settlement came in. Certainly, all the sol-