

*Supply—Interior*

Mr. MEIGHEN: There are a great many men in the country who feel much the same, but most of them are locked up.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): That has always been the attitude of the autocrat toward the democrat.

Item agreed to.

Topographical and general surveys—traverse of northern rivers and lakes—airial surveys—classification of lands for forestry, settlement and the development of Canada—plotting and printing plans, etc., \$400,000.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There is a reduction this year of \$70,000, and the committee will remember that we made a considerable reduction in this work last year. Year by year therefore we are trying to reduce these expenditures. We have now complete arrangements with all the departments in connection with topographical survey work, so that the fear expressed by some members on former occasions as to overlapping in various departments is not justified. The work is completed before the parties start out for the field—I refer, of course, to the topographical work done by the Department of Mines and by the Department of Defence. We have a plan by which the work done by the various departments shall be co-ordinated to avoid any overlapping.

Mr. MEIGHEN: How many are on the Topographical Surveys now?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Inside and outside there are 208.

Mr. MEIGHEN: How many were there last year?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There were seventeen more last year.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The reduction of seventeen would not account for the reduction in this vote. What I fear is that unless the reduction in staff coincides with the reduction in the vote we shall have a lot of men idle. Are the men being fully employed who are there now? You cannot account for a reduction of \$70,000 in the vote by a reduction of only seventeen in the staff; there must be a good many men idle.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There has been a reduction in field expenses of \$33,003, in salaries of \$34,547, and in office expenses of \$2,450.

Mr. MEIGHEN: From what areas has the minister withdrawn?

[Mr. E. J. Garland.]

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The following are the decreases:

Province—	Decrease
Manitoba.. . . . .	\$ 6,290
Saskatchewan.. . . . .	19,250
Alberta.. . . . .	20,663
Yukon.. . . . .	3,000

And the work on the British Columbia-Alberta boundary having been completed, there is a further saving there of \$7,000.

Mr. McTAGGART: There is a reference in this item to a classification of lands for forestry. I have in mind a forest reserve in southwestern Saskatchewan, the Big Stick forest reserve, in the Big Sand Hills, which was recently transferred from the Forestry branch to the Timber and Grazing branch. On whose recommendation was that done?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am informed that Mr. Lonergan made the inspection and reported in favour of the transfer.

Mr. McTAGGART: Did he give reasons?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): We have a complete report on the matter from him.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The minister informed the committee that during the last year a closer co-operation had been effected with the departments of Mines and Defence.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I would not say "closer," because we have been doing this for three years. I merely mentioned it in passing to remind the committee that, this criticism that there might be overlapping, we had frequently before. We always have a complete understanding of the nature of the work to be done.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): With reference to the prevention of duplication of work, has the minister been as successful in the Geodetic branch?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): They are working in conjunction with the other surveys all the time, and also with the provincial surveys, so there is no overlapping. All these services have a complete understanding before they take the field as to what areas they shall cover and the nature of the work they shall undertake.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I congratulate the minister on effecting that much change during the year. He will remember that in discussing the vote for the Bureau of Statistics it was suggested that the bureau should be empowered to go in and advise on the standardization of the collection and com-