

Mr. WILSON. Mr. W. J. White drew a salary of \$2,200; for board and lodging, \$807; for railway fare, \$614; for pullman cars, \$403; and we appear to have paid \$14.75 for his washing. Why should we pay for his washing?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Mr. White is travelling inspector of agencies in the western states, and he is practically on the road all the time. He puts in his bill and he expects it to be paid. The expenses are audited and we have no reason to think that they are excessive.

Mr. WILSON. Do you pay the laundry bills of all your agents?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The rule is that we pay all expenses that are incurred when the officers are away from home. I do not know what the rule is about the laundry, but if the hon. gentleman desires I will bring down that information to-morrow.

Mr. WILSON. I would like to have that because there is another gentleman here with a laundry bill of \$31.40, and we do not seem to pay the laundry bills of all these officers. The annual report of the department for 1902 shows that there came from the United States 26,388 immigrants, and Mr. Smart brought down to the Committee on Agriculture a report showing that the salaried agents sent to this country 23,781 immigrants, and that the agents on commission sent 3,822 immigrants which would make a total of 27,543 from the United States, or 1,155 more than the annual report shows. What is the explanation of that discrepancy?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. My deputy informs me that he was asked to make out a statement showing the number of persons that were sent by each agent and he compiled that from the reports of the agents. The number stated in the annual report is the number reported by the immigration commissioner at Winnipeg. The number counted by the officers on the trains would naturally be slightly different from the approximate statement made from the agents' reports. The hon. gentleman must understand that difference without any explanation.

Mr. WILSON. The hon. gentleman should give an explanation of the discrepancy. The figures furnished by his deputy ought to be reliable.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I have given the explanation.

Mr. WILSON. It is not very satisfactory.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Nothing more accurate could be presented. The Committee on Agriculture asked the deputy minister to give as nearly as he

could the number of persons sent by the different agents, and he made up a statement from their reports. The agents handle a large number of people and send them along, so that they cannot in the nature of things make a report that is absolutely accurate, because some of the people may not come to Canada. On the other hand the agents on the trains who count the people reported in Canada, must get pretty near to the exact number, but it would be absolutely impossible that there should not be a discrepancy between the two.

Mr. POPE. I appreciate how tired you are, Mr. Chairman, after having worked eight hours, and consequently I shall be brief. But you are not the only tired man in political life to-day. The cabinet, or so much as remains of it, has been working overtime for the last twenty-four hours, and they must be also somewhat fatigued.

The hon. member for Lennox has complained that the figures given by the Minister of the Interior and those given by his officers do not agree. That is not strange. The cabinet do not agree, and why should we expect figures to agree which emanate from a body of men who do not agree? I can understand that immigration is a touching question for hon. gentlemen opposite at this moment. There has been a serious emigration from the cabinet in the last twenty-four hours, and it is a subject which they naturally would not wish to discuss at present. As we shall be called upon to discuss that question at a later hour to-day, it is not necessary that I should dwell further upon it. But I wish to assure the members of the cabinet who are here to-night of my sympathy for them in the great loss they have sustained; and I think, having had such an exhaustive discussion on this question and after the assurance of the hon. Minister of the Interior that we shall have three times as much discussion upon it as we have had this evening, we might now, with the permission of the leader of the opposition, pass this item.

Some resolutions reported.

COMMITTEE ON THE ELECTION LAWS.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. As the hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) was placed on the committee in connection with the Bill relating to the election laws, and as he is absent, the suggestion has been made that the hon. member for King's (Mr. Fowler) be appointed on the committee in his place. If agreeable, I will make a motion to that effect, so that the hon. member may be able to attend the meeting of the committee which takes place to-morrow.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved the adjournment of the House.