

Dominion Land Contingencies, etc., \$250,000.

Mr. MANION: Will the minister please explain this item?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The following is a statement of the details of this estimate:

1. Expenses of 52 Homestead Inspectors, including purchase, renewals and repairs of travelling outfits, such as teams, buggies, harness, etc.	\$85,000 00
2. Expenses of 17 Timber Inspectors, including, as in above item, purchase, renewals and repairs of travelling outfits, etc.	20,000 00
3. Expenses of 3 Inspectors of Ranches.	8,500 00
4. Expenses of 17 Dominion Land and Crown Timber Agencies and of the offices of the Inspectors, of Dominion Lands and Crown Timber Agencies, these expenses consist in the payment of telegrams, telephone, commission and postage, to sub-agents, clerical assistance of a temporary nature only, janitor service, etc.	40,000 00
5. Travelling Expenses of outside officials, when away on government business, including Superintendent of Western Land Agencies, Assistant Land Agency Inspectors, Travelling Auditor, etc.	25,000 00
6. Printing and Stationery. This item is to cover the cost of printed forms used in transacting public business. The purchase and repairs of typewriters and for all stationery required in the Dominion Land Offices and sub-Land offices.	48,000 00
7. Advertising re sale of Timber Berths; also to cover accounts in connection with lands open for entry, etc.	10,000 00
8. Miscellaneous:— Freight and express charges, Telegrams, etc., paid at Ottawa and for unforeseen expenses during 1922-23.	13,500 00
	\$250,000 00

Item agreed to.

Surveys of Dominion Lands, examination of survey returns, printing of plans, etc. \$600,000.

Mr. MANION: I do not know much about this subject at all, but it puzzles me to know why these figures remain in the Estimates year after year. I am not criticising the minister by any means, but I cannot understand the continued necessity for these votes. Three years ago this estimate was \$700,000. last year \$600,000, and this year again \$600,000, and I wonder whether these surveys of Dominion lands are never

going to cease. It seems that once a vote gets upon Government Estimates it has a tendency to stay there, apart altogether from the question of necessity.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am afraid I cannot give any detailed information in regard to this estimate, nor can I at the moment make any definite statement as to when this work may be regarded as nearing completion. There seems to be, even from the older provinces, a demand, which is growing more insistent, for work of this character as well as for geological work. This work has naturally been confined very largely to the western provinces and the Northwest Territories where the Dominion owns its resources, and almost the whole of this expenditure is for the purposes of the survey parties in that area. I do not know whether or not there should be a reduction, but it appears to me that, as this work is rather interwoven with that of immigration, it would be wise in the western provinces, with which I am thoroughly familiar, to confine our immigration as far as possible to the vacant lands along our existing lines of railway already surveyed. I know that even in Alberta there has been an insistent demand for the continuance of the services of the parties who periodically go into the field there for survey work; and sometimes the demand is for a larger number of men than have been engaged in previous years. I cannot say whether that work is approaching the point of completion; but if the negotiations that are now in progress with the prairie provinces were completed, naturally it would cease, almost in its entirety, and the Dominion would be relieved of a work which everyone will agree is expensive.

Mr. MANION: If it is the fact that the survey work would no longer be necessary in western Canada if those provinces took over their resources, will the minister explain how it is that the older provinces are asking for these surveys?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): They are not asking for topographical surveys.

Mr. MACLAREN: Was this \$600,000 voted last year entirely expended?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes. The vote represented the expenses of the various parties, to each of which was allocated a certain sum.

Mr. CAMPBELL: A good deal of the survey work in western Canada is, I think, unnecessary. During the last few years sur-