

the following year the inspector would go out and see what had been done. I would like to know if that plan has been carried out?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I think, generally speaking, it has. I would not say that there are no exceptions.

Mr. WILSON. Is not that a very expensive modus operandi?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Of course, it is expensive. The expenses consist in sending a man out to see that the planting is properly done. There are scores of cases where farmers have tried to plant trees in absolute ignorance of the methods that ought to be adopted; and after a few years, some of these trees are half dead and others completely withered. The principle of this has been to furnish an object lesson and that is necessarily expensive.

Mr. WILSON. I could quite understand this being done in districts, but Mr. Stewart left the impression on the minds of the committee that if any one applied, an inspector would be sent down to view his soil, make a rough diagram, send that to Ottawa and get a regular plan made, then plant the trees, and the following year inspect them.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I do not think the intention was to send an inspector out to make a diagram before any trees were planted, but that a diagram would be sent showing how the trees should be planted, and then the inspector would be sent to supervise the planting.

Mr. SPROULE. I suppose your travelling foresters are paid their actual expenses?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. There is nothing paid except the actual expenses, for which vouchers are furnished.

Mr. SPROULE. I see an item here of a pullman and state-room for Mr. Stewart, \$131.25. Of course, these gentlemen must travel in state as much as possible, and I presume these things are not put down at lower than cost. There is another item of \$839.49 for printing in connection with Dominion lands, protection of timber.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. We have to get notices printed showing what the law is with regard to allowing fires to run, and these notices have to be printed on a special kind of paper, and are rather expensive.

Mr. SPROULE. Where are they printed?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. At the Printing Bureau.

Mr. BLAIN. When did the department begin giving out the trees referred to, and to what extent have the farmers taken advantage of that policy?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. My recollection is that three years ago we

Mr. WILSON.

started with our first vote of \$15,000, and the vote has been \$15,000 per year since then. I do not think I could give a better idea of the result of the work than will be found on page 10 of the Report of the Department of the Interior.

Mr. BLAIN. I think that Mr. Stewart made the statement before the committee that it was almost impossible for the department to furnish sufficient trees to supply the demands of the farmers; but if I understood the hon. minister, the difficulty with the department was to get the farmers to plant the trees.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. My hon. friend may have referred to the difficulty experienced at first. It was only towards the end of the second year that we decided upon fitting out these plantations. I am informed that the supply is equal to the demand, but no doubt the demand will grow rapidly.

Mr. SMITH (Wentworth). Is a man sent out to show farmers how to plant the trees and lay out the ground?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. That rule is not always followed. Where the farmer knows sufficient himself, we do not send any one to teach him.

Mr. SMITH (Wentworth). Suppose an inquiry came 200 miles distant, would the minister send a man that distance?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. The applications would come in early in the season, and the superintendent would divide his staff and use his judgment as to where he would send them.

Mr. SMITH (Wentworth). As there are only two centres, there might be some points many hundreds of miles away from them, and it would be an expensive job.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. In that case we cannot do it.

Mr. SMITH (Wentworth). Printed instructions might be sent out which would be quite sufficient. That is all the farmers in the east require. With such instructions, it is not more difficult to plant small seedlings than any farm crop.

Mr. COCHRANE. It appears to me a pretty expensive job. I do not know why the farmers in Manitoba and the Northwest should not be able to plant seedling trees. In our section of the country we buy our apple trees, at pretty high prices too, and we have no government official running around to tell us how to plant our trees. A man who is capable of running a farm ought to have intelligence enough to plant trees. In addition, we have an inspector, if what my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) says is correct, travelling about superintending this work, and he travels in a pullman car.