

Calgary and at the same time attending the Indian reserve, I can only say that if he is able under the circumstances to retain any practice in Calgary it must be because of his very superior qualifications.

Mr. ROCHE. How often has he to visit those reserves?

Mr. OLIVER. He has to make a regular visit once a month to each, and has to go on call as well, so that his Indian work must take up a good deal of his time.

Mr. ROCHE. I notice in the Auditor General's Report an item for the expenses of a trip of Dr. Lafferty to Ottawa, \$160.85. What business had he of a public nature that brought him to Ottawa and entitled him to charge up his expenses against the department?

Mr. OLIVER. There was a medical convention held here with regard to tuberculosis, and as Dr. Lafferty has had special opportunity of studying that disease in the course of his practice on the Indian reserves, it was thought in the public interests that he should be given the opportunity of placing his information at the disposal of the convention.

Mr. ROCHE. Is this an annual event?

Mr. OLIVER. I cannot say, but if it be an annual event I should certainly think it proper that the convention should have the advantage of Dr. Lafferty's experience in dealing with these diseases.

Mr. ROCHE. In looking over the reports of this convention, I fail to see any important part taken by Dr. Lafferty in laying his views on this most important subject, before the convention.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. minister is laying down a very extraordinary principle. We have many medical experts in this country, whose experience and knowledge would be as valuable at that convention as Dr. Lafferty's. If it be in the public interest to pay Dr. Lafferty's expenses to that convention, should not the government pay the expenses of these other men as well?

Mr. OLIVER. I would think that Dr. Lafferty's experience in dealing with tuberculosis among the Indians would be of considerable value to the convention, and I am bound to suppose also that the experience of other men interested in the same subject would be of considerable value to Dr. Lafferty in his work among the Indians. Even if you say that the information he had acquired was of no value to the convention, I still hold that the information to be there gathered would be of value to Dr. Lafferty and consequently to the Indian Department, and worth all it cost.

Mr. SPROULE. Turn the convention into a school for the purpose of improving medical men.

Mr. OLIVER. I take it that was the purpose of the convention.

Mr. SPROULE. If that argument be sound, would it not be equally fair and just to pay other medical men, say those coming from the maritime provinces, where their professional experience brought them much more knowledge of that kind probably than Dr. Lafferty would have? Would it not be fairer that they should be paid than he, because they gave their professional knowledge, not only to the world at large, but to Dr. Lafferty to make use of when he goes back to attend the Indians? It seems to me unfair to pay one and not the other.

Mr. OLIVER. The difference is this: Dr. Lafferty is working amongst the Indians for the Indian Department, and the Indian Department through the Indians gets the benefit of any additional information he secures, whereas the Indian Department has no interest whatever in the amount of information the other gentlemen get. I do not think there is any person in all Canada who has the same opportunities that Dr. Lafferty has for studying this particular trouble, or who may be presumed to have the opportunity of using to advantage any information that he might acquire; having in charge three Indian reserves, one of them having, if not the largest, the second largest Indian population in the country, and the others having a very considerable population, and with the decreased Indian population which my hon. friend from Medicine Hat has spoken of, everybody must realize that there are very remarkable and melancholy opportunities for studying that particular disease under the notice of Dr. Lafferty.

Mr. SPROULE. There may be, and there may be other localities where there are five or ten deaths from consumption to every one there is in that country; and suppose a very eminent medical man comes from one of those localities and gives information which Dr. Lafferty would use for the benefit of the Indians and the Indian Department, would it not be reasonable for the country to pay him as to pay for Dr. Lafferty? If it is pretended that Dr. Lafferty is an expert in that line above dozens of other medical men in the country, or has any greater opportunities for studying the disease or treating patients afflicted with it, that may pass with men outside of the profession, but it will not pass with men in the profession who are doing perhaps twice or three times the practice of Dr. Lafferty in the same line.

Triennial clothing, \$4,645; increase, \$1,969.

Mr. SPROULE. What is the cause of this increase? If the Indians are dying off so rapidly, how is it you want more clothing?