

sons are satisfactory or not. I would suggest that the item stand until the order in council is produced.

Mr. CROCKET. I noticed in the public press that Mr. Scott, Superintendent of Immigration, had recently been in St. John conferring with the provincial government authorities in reference to a proposal that this government co-operate with the New Brunswick government for the promotion of immigration into that province. Is the hon. minister able to state if any arrangement has been made between the two governments for that purpose?

Mr. OLIVER. There have no definite arrangements been made, but there have been preliminary negotiations entered into. Mr. Scott did go down to Halifax and St. John in connection with his ordinary duties at these two receiving ports, and while there did discuss with the government of the two provinces the desirability of some sort of a mutual arrangement in regard to the inducement of immigration into these provinces and the distribution of such immigration as would come to them. There have been no arrangements entered into in so far as I am aware up to the present time, but there is a discussion going on in regard to the matter.

Mr. CROCKET. Would the hon. minister state if the provincial government submitted any proposal in the matter?

Mr. OLIVER. Not, that has come to my knowledge. I think there has been a preliminary discussion between Mr. Scott and the Immigration Department and the representatives of the provincial government, but in so far as I am aware, no definite proposal has yet been submitted on either side.

Mr. HAGGART. There has been an arrangement made with the Ontario government, has there not?

Mr. OLIVER. No, there is no arrangement with the Ontario government. Some time ago, if it is of interest to the committee, the Ontario Minister of Agriculture and myself had an interview, and at that interview the Minister of Agriculture for Ontario gave me to understand that he would consult his colleagues of the provincial government and possibly as a result of that consultation they would decide to withdraw their present efforts with regard to the distribution of immigrants at Toronto. That is a matter entirely of their own concern and, of course, if a conclusion is reached, it will be of their own motion and not by any agreement with us.

Mr. TAYLOR. I understand the hon. Minister of the Interior, in reply to a question by my hon. friend the member for Lanark (Mr. Haggart) as to the number of clerks in the Interior Department to say that there were 149. I find in looking up

the pages of the Auditor General's Report here that this vote is asked to pay 616 people, as I find by counting over the names. There are about 120 draughtsmen in the Department of the Interior. I wonder how the hon. gentleman reconciles the fact that when he answers my hon. friend from Lanark that there are only 149 clerks he is asking a vote to pay the salaries of some 616 clerks. Surely he refers to the permanent staff only?

Mr. OLIVER. I am only sorry we are not able to pay 616 clerks out of this vote. The vote asked for here only applies to what we call the inside service. The vote under the head of civil government covers the salaries of employees who are in what we call permanent employment and they constitute only a comparatively small part of the total of the employees of the Department of the Interior.

Mr. TAYLOR. What is the number today, compared with 1896, of permanent and extra employees in the Department of the Interior, and why should 120 draughtsmen be required?

Mr. OLIVER. I am unable at the moment to give the number of employees in the department in 1896, and I could not at the moment either give the number now, but I think my hon. friend will admit that with a settlement of something like 120,000 people in the Northwest inside of three or four years as against half that number in all the years preceding 1896, there is room for a very considerable increase of the staff necessary to deal with that part of the public business.

Mr. THOMAS CHISHOLM. Has the work in the Department of the Interior increased this year as compared with last year? Have more homesteads been taken up, or is the work so much greater as to require more clerks?

Mr. OLIVER. In some branches the work has increased considerably, not however in the number of homesteads taken up. The number of homesteads taken up during the past year is larger than in any previous year excepting the one immediately preceding.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What are the figures for the two years?

Mr. OLIVER. Approximately 41,000 for the year before last and 32,000, I think, for this year. I want to point out that the taking of the homestead entry is only a very small part of the work of the department dealing with the lands. After the homestead entry is taken up the greater part of the work comes to be done. It is after the entries are made that applications for cancellation or extension of the time come in and ultimately inspection of the lands by the inspector. All these require a great deal more