

subjected to a poll tax of \$500 a head. Notwithstanding this, the immigration from China during the last year has almost doubled, 1,600 having come in. This necessarily increases the charges on the department, and it is to provide for these additional charges and also for the investigation into Chinese immigration, which is now going on, that this amount is asked for.

Trade commissioners and commercial agents, including expenses in connection with negotiation of treaties or the extension of commercial relations, further amount required, \$7,000.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. This additional amount is necessitated by reason of the transfer of several trade commissioners and the furnishing of new offices, and also by a considerable increase in the work of the various offices. At present the salaries paid amount to \$48,254.54, and contingencies to \$40,376.90, a total of \$88,631.44. We have trade commissioners at Bristol, England; Belfast, Ireland; Auckland, New Zealand; Capetown, South Africa; Mexico, Berlin, Bermuda, Yokohama, Shanghai, Havana, Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and Hull; Paris (France), Durban (South Africa), Holland, St. John's (Newfoundland), Sydney and Melbourne, Australia. In addition to these, we have commercial agents at several points, who are simply residents of their respective localities, and are paid a small salary for attending to our business.

Mr. DANIEL. Does this item include any expense in connection with the negotiation of the reciprocity agreement now before the House?

Mr. FIELDING. This is the form in which the vote has stood for some years. I think that in one or two instances such charges have been made against it. It covers expenses of trade commissioners, so that it is available for the other service if needed.

Salaries of chief inspectors, deputy inspectors and other employees, rents, day wages and other contingencies under the Inspection and Sale and Manitoba Grain Acts, further amount required, \$25,000.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The amount voted in the main estimates for this service is \$190,000, but it is found that this further amount is required. The service is increasing, and is almost self-supporting.

Mr. ROCHE. How much has been paid to the officers appointed by the government during the past year in connection with the terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I cannot give this information to-day, but perhaps will be able to give it on the main estimates.

Removal of foreign and uncurrent coin from circulation, further amount required, \$7,500.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

Hon. W. S. FIELDING (Minister of Finance). The House is aware that we have been engaged several years in exporting foreign silver, practically all American silver, and substituting for it Canadian currency. We exported a considerable amount in 1910, and did not think we would have to export much this year. However the amount has proved much larger than we expected, and we need this additional sum. We pay the bank for exporting this silver three-eighths of one per cent in addition to express charges. Of course as this foreign silver is removed, it is replaced by the silver of Canada, in the coining of which there is a considerable profit.

Mr. PERLEY. Is there any law in the United States forbidding the passing of Canadian currency there?

Mr. FIELDING. I think not, but custom, I regret to say, largely prevents the taking of our Canadian money except in the border towns where, for the convenience of trade, it is very generally accepted. It will also be taken in the large departmental stores of the principal cities; but for general purposes it is not accepted in the United States, not as a matter of law, but of custom.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. It is the same in the case of our bills.

Mr. FIELDING. In many cases our bills will not be taken, although there is sometimes a distinction drawn between our national bills and our bank bills. I know that in one instance when I tendered a Canadian bank bill it was refused, and when I remonstrated the party said: 'We will take your national notes, but we do not know anything about your banks.' There is no universal rule, but the big hotels and departmental stores in New York will take both our bank bills and our national bills. But in the ordinary avenues of trade, I think our notes, both bank and national, would be refused and certainly our silver.

Mr. PERLEY. I have been told that there is a law preventing the banks from accepting Canadian currency on deposit, and that is one reason why people on the other side of the line do not like to take it.

Mr. FIELDING. The point is new to me, but it is a very interesting point, and in view of what my hon. friend has said, it will be my duty to look it up.

Mr. PERLEY. It seems to me that when the hon. minister was talking over the reciprocity question in Washington, this is a subject which might have been taken up in one shape or another. He has told us about Canadian bank notes being refused, and all of us have had experiences of the