

Mr. LaRIVIERE. Are they the same as last year?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. It was the brother of Mr. Côté who was out there last year. They are both in the department.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. Yes, I know, but the others are the same as acted last year?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. How is it the government did not see their way to appoint one of the leading half-breeds to act on that commission, as has been the practice heretofore? In former years, Mr. Roger Goulet was a member of that commission, and, in fact, the soul of that commission. I understand that his health did not allow him to act on the commission this year, but Mr. Pierre Deschambault was very strongly recommended by some friends of the Liberal party. He was not appointed, however, although last year he acted in an unofficial capacity. He certainly should have formed part of the commission. He is a man who has been born and bred in that district where the commissioners are going to exercise jurisdiction, and he was the best qualified man that could have been selected. He is a man against whom the Department of the Interior could not say anything, even politically.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am not aware that there was any reason, even politically, in the appointment. One of the half-breeds has been appointed in the same position this year, a man who lives in the district and knows the people well. Mr. Charles Fisher has been appointed as secretary to the commission, and he is familiar with all these matters.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. Is that the same gentleman who is now a member of the legislature in the North-west Territories?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I think he is the same gentleman.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. Well, I may say that he is perfectly qualified to act as secretary, but I think he ought to have been appointed a commissioner. The fact of the matter is, that the vast majority of these half-breeds are of French origin, and with the exception of Mr. Côté, who was sent from Ottawa—and he is a good appointment, I believe—there is not another gentleman on the commission who can speak French. Mr. Côté, I repeat, is, I believe, a good appointment.

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend (Mr. LaRiviere) is mistaken. Mr. Fisher is a French half-breed.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. I mentioned the commissioners; Mr. Fisher is only the secretary.

The PRIME MINISTER. That is an important appointment.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. I know Mr. Fisher, and he is a good appointment, but he ought to be appointed to a higher place as one of the commissioners.

Mr. FOSTER. What are the details of the expenditure last year?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I have not the details of last year's expenditure.

Mr. FOSTER. The department should not have allowed the hon. gentleman to come down here without having a detailed statement. He should take all the wool off the top of the head of some of his officers for not having furnished him with more information.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I do not know that it has been customary in the past to give details of such an item.

Mr. FOSTER. I beg pardon. Whatever faults the present Minister of the Interior may have, when he was here last year he gave the fullest explanation that ever was given by any minister in this House—I will not except any—of his departmental estimates. He was told it would be expected and as *Hansard* will show, he gave most full and explicit statements in reference to every question that was asked as to expenditure. The department ought to have been even more careful to have this information for the acting minister than for the minister himself.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I will give my hon. friend a statement, which I think ought to be satisfactory, of the use to which the whole of the money is put for this year and next year, amounting altogether to \$18,000. It is estimated that there will be six months' services of two commissioners at \$10 a day, \$3,600; six months' services of two commissioners at \$5 a day, \$1,800; one head clerk at \$5 a day, \$900; three clerks at \$100 a month each, \$1,800, making \$8,100 on account of salaries; transport, contingencies, camp outfit, wages of cooks, boatmen, &c., \$7,000; supplies and living expenses of commissioners, clerks, interpreters, cooks, boatmen, teamsters and other persons it may be found necessary to employ, \$3,000; making the total amount for the present year and next year, of \$18,100.

Mr. FOSTER. Who are the commissioners?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Mr. McKenna and Mr. Walker. Mr. McKenna is an officer of the Indian Department.

Mr. FOSTER. What is his pay?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He receives \$6 a day in addition to his salary. Mr. Walker is not an officer of the department. He lives at Calgary. He was, I believe, at one time superintendent of the mounted police,