

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. COOTE: What is that limit.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I think it was 12,000 acres, but I am inclined to the belief that we have increased that in some of the drier areas. It depends a good deal upon the locality.

Mr. COOTE: In the Porcupine hills would that be the 12,000 area?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I think so but I could not say definitely. That is a pretty good area.

Mr. COOTE: I should like to refer the minister to the case of the Glengarry lease at Claresholm. He will remember there was about one half, or a little more than one half, of that lease granted to Mr. Burns, or to the Burns company.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There is much more than that, is there not, leased to private parties?

Mr. COOTE: I do not remember the exact details, but I want to remind the minister of one or two cases which I think were not fairly dealt with in that area, particularly the cases of Mr. Bolton and Mr. Anderson, as I remember the names now, although there were some others. In this case these men have been in that country a long time and have raised a lot of cattle, but I think neither of them has ever had a lease. When these men applied for a lease I do not think their application was given fair consideration.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Was not Mr. Bolton's case adjusted? He was to the north. I think he got the three quarter sections he wanted. Mr. Anderson's case was not settled; he was in the midst of the ranching lands, if I remember.

Mr. COOTE: I would be very glad to know that Mr. Bolton had been given three quarter sections. I know he applied for the section and three quarters immediately adjoining him. He pointed out to me that he had been in the country twenty-five years and had never had a foot of lease. Mr. Burns, I presume, had hundreds of thousands of acres of lease, and probably sold again at a profit. Many of the leases in western Canada have been traded in, making very handsome profits for the holders of the leases. It is quite possible that some of this land that is being leased for twenty-one years will return a handsome profit to the holder before that time expires. When the twenty-one years are up the cattle industry will, we

[Mr. Coote.]

hope, be in a different position from what it is to-day. Before sitting down I should like to ask if the minister would tell me how many leases have been turned over to the provincial governments for community leases, if any?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I think I can tell my hon. friend from memory. There is only the Matador lease in Saskatchewan, and one in Alberta. I am not sure that it was not a portion of the Glengarry, that lease that was opened but never taken up. I know of no other application in Alberta.

Mr. COOTE: I should like to say that I think the Glengarry lease was not very suitable, for community pasture.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): That was not the answer that was made to me.

Mr. COOTE: Perhaps the people did not desire this for community lease anyway. But I think it might have divided up among the people living in the district. I should like the minister to look into the case of Mr. Anderson about whom I have already spoken to him. I think Mr. Anderson is surrounded on three sides by this ranch. I really think he should be given that section of the lease, and hope the minister will see if that could not be arranged even yet, because I do not think the best disposition was made of the land in the first instance.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I know that Mr. Anderson's case was taken up with Mr. Burns. I think the latter now has only six sections left of the old lease. The balance—the Glengarry ranch—of course he bought and owns outright, but he has been fairly generous in giving out that lease to those surrounding him. My recollection now is that there is only twenty-five per cent of that lease left. However, I will be very glad to see what I can do—and I think Mr. Burns will also—to encourage Mr. Anderson. At all events Mr. Burns promised me he would endeavour to give him some relief by way of more land adjoining his holdings there.

Mr. COOTE: I do not want to be misunderstood in regard to this case of Mr. Burns. As I understand it, the department really cancelled the lease and afterwards reinstated the old company in a part of it. I think that when they had once cancelled the lease those living in the vicinity who had made application should have had the first opportunity of securing leases.