

and Churchill; and we consider, as I have said, that it was economical to employ him, starting from Norway House and returning to that point, rather than send another commissioner, paying him his whole time, starting him from Winnipeg or Selkirk and paying him both ways.

Mr. MIDDLEBRO. How many persons accompanied this inspector?

Mr. OLIVER. Himself, a clerk, a physician, a cook, and five canoe men.

Mr. CAMPBELL. How many places after leaving Norway House did this reverend gentleman call to obtain these adhesions with regard to Treaty No. 5.

Mr. OLIVER. The only two places at which he took adhesions were York Factory and Fort Churchill. The adhesions necessary in the intervening territory had been taken during the previous year. It would be necessary that he should make his trip from Norway House to York Factory and Fort Churchill in order to meet the Indians there at the time set for the meeting.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Taking the minister's figures, 480 miles, and knowing the conditions in the country as I do, I think the minister should hardly ask us to believe that in making that trip, this party travelled only ten miles a day. He could easily travel 100 miles a day down the river and 40 miles a day up the river.

Mr. OLIVER. My hon. friend knows enough about travel in the west to understand that you cannot measure distances in such a country as this by miles, but by days.

Mr. CAMPBELL. That was travelling by ox-cart.

Mr. OLIVER. It is a matter of days, not of miles. I have not travelled over this route, but if he travelled down stream 480 miles he would have to travel up stream the same distance, and making portages in either direction occupies time.

Mr. CAMPBELL. About one-third of the time.

Mr. OLIVER. Whether Mr. Semmens was slow or fast, he might have started sooner than he required to do in order to be sure he would meet the Indians at the time set, owing to the uncertainty of travel in that country.

Mr. HENDERSON. I have never heard the minister more laboured in his effort to defend his department and justify a payment. While the amount is not large there is involved the principle that a man who receives a good salary should not be paid twice for the same time. I cannot conscientiously vote for this payment and if a

Mr. OLIVER.

motion was made to strike the item out of the estimates I would support it cordially.

Mr. OLIVER. I am at one with the hon. member in his principle that we should not pay a man two salaries for the same time, but I do not think we should require a man to do two kinds of work for the same salary. It is the same time, but it is not the same work, and we have no right to hire a man on the pay of a crossing sweeper and expect him to do the work of a railway superintendent. The principle I stand for is that the government has no right to impose upon its officials, and that when it asks men to do special work outside of the duties for which they are engaged it should give special consideration for those special duties.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Did I understand that our reverend friend went from Norway House down the river by Split lake to the mouth of the river at York Factory?

Mr. OLIVER. I have no information at hand, but I imagine that Mr. Semmens followed the ordinary boat route between Norway House and York Factory which, of course, is not the Nelson river, but the Hayes river, and then went by the waters of Hudson Bay from York Factory to Churchill. I do not know by what route he returned.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I think this committee should be seized of the facts, because, while \$400 is a great big sum if it is to be paid unjustly, the expenses are something that this committee ought to consider in conjunction with the amount that is being paid to the Rev. Mr. Semmens. If he took the trip down the Nelson river in the usual course it would cost very little, comparatively speaking, but if he went around by Beren's river, Island lake, God's lake, Cross lake and Split lake, and from there to York factory and Churchill, the expense would run up very high. I think the minister ought to give us all this information while we are considering the question of this gentleman's salary.

Mr. OLIVER. I can assure my hon. friend that Mr. Semmens did not go by way of Beren's river, Island lake and God's lake. Mr. Semmens passed by way of Beren's river to Norway House. That part of his trip is not considered in this expenditure, but from Norway House he went direct to York Factory by way of Nelson river or Hayes river. I take it for granted that he went by way of Hayes river because that is the ordinary boat route, and is considered to be a better route than by way of the Nelson river. I assume that he went that way because it was his business to go from Norway House direct to York Factory, from York Factory direct to