

Mr. OLIVER. I understand that this covers all services.

Mr. ROCHE. Can the minister say how far Dr. Wright lives from the hospital?

Mr. OLIVER. I am not able to say. Perhaps my hon. friend could.

Mr. ROCHE. Dr. Wright has to travel fully twenty-five miles to this reserve, and there is located in the town of Rossburn, within three or four miles of the hospital, another physician, Dr. Evans, of equally good professional qualifications, and it would be much less expensive for the department to employ the physician living nearer the hospital, besides being so convenient in case of emergency. If the two physicians lived in the same town, I would not object. Dr. Wright, who was the Liberal candidate in the last election, is able to hold down the job, which is looked upon by his fellow-practitioners as something of a snap; but I do not think it is at all fair to the other medical man in this district.

Mr. OLIVER. I am not familiar with the circumstances. Russell is an old town and very likely Dr. Wright was practising there and was given this work before there was a Rossburn, and it is quite possible that Dr. Wright is giving satisfaction and that there is a desire not to make a change.

Mr. ROCHE. Since the facts have been laid before the minister I presume he will take them into his consideration and try to save the department as much as possible. I would also refer to another old friend of the minister, Dr. Lafferty of Calgary. The Minister of Justice (Hon. Mr. Aylesworth) when filling the position of Postmaster General, laid down the principle that no postmaster whose salary was sufficient to maintain him should engage in other business in competition with the business men of the town. This principle was applied in Cannington when it was only suspected that a postmaster had an interest in a grocery business. Why is that principle not applicable to medical men? Dr. Lafferty is practising in Calgary and the other medical men are handicapped by reason of the subsidy he gets from the government for attendance on industrial schools and Indians. He draws the following amounts for attendance of this kind: Indian school at Calgary, \$345; Calgary Industrial School, \$200; Sarcee Agency, \$350; Blackfoot Agency, \$654; Stoney Reserve, \$443; or altogether, by way of salary and expenses from this department last year he received \$2,000 in round numbers, in addition to his general practice in Calgary. Again I would not object if he was upon all fours with competing medical men in Calgary. It is well known that he is the director of ceremonies in Liberal matters in Calgary. But other medical men are located nearer the

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reserves than he is. The Blackfoot agency is forty or fifty, perhaps seventy, miles from Calgary, and still Dr. Lafferty is brought all that distance to attend the reserves. Dr. Lafferty is taken all the way out there and is running up expenses in connection with his trips, whereas there are two medical men right at Gleichen where the agency is located. I do not think it right to import a medical man from Calgary to attend the Indians there whose services I do not suppose would be valued any more highly than those of the two medical men who reside at Gleichen and who, by reason of their convenience as well as professional attainments, would give as good satisfaction, to say the least, as Dr. Lafferty. Stoney reserve is some twenty-five miles from Calgary, and for his services and expenses at this reserve Dr. Lafferty drew \$443. The Minister of Agriculture laid it down the other day as a principle that in cases of quarantine, where there was a local veterinary surgeon in the locality affected, he should be employed to look after the quarantine. And in one instance in which it was pointed out that there was a local veterinary in the locality, he said he was not aware of that fact or he would not have sent a man there, and he would see that that was not done again. If that principle is applicable in the Agricultural Department, it should be equally applicable in the Department of the Interior. I would ask the minister if he does not think it is rather unfair to give Dr. Lafferty \$2,000 practically of a subsidy for attending these four reserves when there are medical men right in the immediate neighbourhood of each?

Mr. OLIVER. The case of Dr. Lafferty is much the same as I suggested was probably the case with Dr. Wright. At the time Dr. Lafferty was appointed, I do not think there was any question that he was as conveniently situated as any other medical man for carrying on the work. True, since then other medical men have come in who are no doubt more conveniently situated, but the House will appreciate the undesirability of displacing a man who is giving satisfaction and has been long employed.

Mr. TAYLOR. You will be saving money for the country.

Mr. OLIVER. I think that the employment of a medical man is on a somewhat different footing from the employment of other officers, and that in the case of the Indians, the employment of a man who has their confidence, who has had long experience among them and who takes great interest in his work is very desirable. I think it would be a mistake to let such a man go for the difference in cost. As to the impropriety of Dr. Lafferty practising in