

he made the arrangement, because he made an estimate of the property, and knowing that it would realize about \$800,000 the minister must have known that the auctioneer would get about \$2,000.

Mr. OLIVER. Yes.

Mr. STAPLES. I do not think the government are justified in paying \$2,000 for the sale of these limits. You can hire the best auctioneer in Canada for \$100 a day.

Mr. BENNETT. I know a case of a large sale of timber limits on the board of trade in Toronto not many months ago for a private concern in which a gentleman was paid \$200 for his day, and he thought he had got rather a good thing.

Mr. LAKE. I notice that in the instructions for the sale of these Indian reserves in the Northwest the minister gives a percentage not to exceed \$200. I should have thought that this was a case in which some reservation of that sort might certainly have been made.

Mr. OLIVER. The eight limits ran from \$50,000 up to, I think, \$150,000. It seems to me that in handling that amount of money we were just as much justified in paying the auctioneer a good price as we would be in expending a large amount of money in advertising the sale, as my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle has said that we should.

Mr. BLAIN. I would like to ask the minister if the terms of sale were carried out in every case. Did the buyers pay the first instalment that was due?

Mr. OLIVER. I understand so. It certainly requires to be paid.

Mr. BLAIN. My information is that it was not. However, leaving that; I want to say a word or two on what my hon. friend from Qu'Appelle has brought up. I was interested in the answer that the hon. gentleman gave, that in future he proposed to advertise more widely the sale of lands of this kind. I am sure the committee will appreciate that. Will he confine these advertisements to newspapers that support the government, or, where he finds a Conservative paper with a much larger circulation—

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Hot air.

Mr. BLAIN. I know it is hot air to my hon. friend, but we had to listen for three hours the other night to the Minister of Militia, and perhaps he can stand it now. It was hot air that he gave us, and every man in the House had to listen to him repeat himself in condemnation of the report of the Civil Service Commission that he had himself helped to appoint.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. Consider me squelched after that.

Mr. BLAIN. No, I shall not consider the hon. gentleman squelched. It takes more than that to squelch him. I was proposing to say a few words when I was interrupted by the hon. gentleman saying it was hot air. The last man in this House who should talk about hot air, or anything else that is hot, is the Minister of Militia and Defence.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. I was not referring to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. BLAIN. I would like to ask the Minister of the Interior if he proposes to broaden out the advertisements in the newspapers in future, and whether, if he finds that a Conservative newspaper has the largest circulation in a district, he will refuse to insert the advertisement in that newspaper?

Mr. OLIVER. My hon. friend will have to be satisfied with the statement that each case will have to rest upon its merits. There are cases in which it would be desirable to advertise in every newspaper and there are other cases in which it would not be. While it is our desire to give every reasonable publicity, we cannot bind ourselves to advertise in every newspaper my hon. friend may desire to have accorded the government patronage.

Mr. BLAIN. That is not an answer to my question. I did not suggest that the hon. gentleman would put the advertisement in every newspaper that I might favour. I am not objecting to the minister inserting the advertisement in newspapers supporting the government, but what I do say is that in districts where he finds a Conservative newspaper having a very much larger circulation why should he not insert the advertisement in that newspaper in addition to the Reform paper which has a smaller circulation?

Mr. OLIVER. I do not propose to admit that I would not insert it in a Conservative paper.

Mr. BLAIN. That is all right.

Mr. OLIVER. Where there is only one paper and it is a Conservative paper we have no hesitation in advertising in it. Where there are two papers, naturally we give the preference to our own friends. But if it is a question of circulation as between the two papers, my hon. friend knows how reliable the statements of newspapers are in regard to their respective circulations. I do not think we can be guided by the statements made as to their circulations.

Mr. BLAIN. The Minister of the Interior ought to know more than I do about statements that are made with reference to the newspapers.