

it is a matter that will have to be undertaken by the respective governments. I think it is generally conceded that if the settlers who now find themselves upon those areas, whether they be large or small, will either have to move of their own volition or be assisted to move to other districts, and that the areas deserted will in due time be turned back to grazing purposes. I see innumerable difficulties, but I do not see very much difficulty with respect to the indebtedness. The individual, however, who spends his all, who has put in years of hard work, will have to sustain the loss of all that he has put in there, plus his work, and it seems to me that if he is willing to continue his residence in the province it would be good business for the provincial government, aided by the federal authority, to get that man upon an area of land where he can carry on agriculture successfully. I am willing, so far and so long as the federal authorities retain control of the crown lands, to recommend that portions of them be used for the purpose of re-establishing these men and keeping them within the provinces in which they have settled. However, we are getting away from the subject under discussion.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Under those circumstances I would advise the minister to concentrate on the solution of

9 p.m. the question, because from the meaningless statement made by the Prime Minister this afternoon I have no very lively anticipation that he or his successor will not be responsible for the administration of the crown lands for a long time to come.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Well, there is nothing like being optimistic about it. We were dealing with the expenditure of four parties on examination of lands for general settlement at \$5,000 each. Then, there is expenditure of two parties on the survey of water areas on the old subdivisions at \$4,000 each—the water areas are constantly receding and giving occasion to controversy. Then, there is the expenditure of two parties on topographical surveys of the Calgary sectional sheet and Cypress Hills Forest Reserve, one party at \$4,000 and one party at \$5,500. A number of settlers are going into the Cypress Hills, and when I took office I found there was a controversy proceeding there with regard to men who had squatted on some of these areas; it will be necessary to send a survey party there this summer. There is also the expenditure of one party on the

survey of group and other lots; expenditure of five parties on topographical survey in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta at \$6,000 per party; expenditure of two parties on subdivision surveys on the railway belt, British Columbia, \$4,000 each. I had a rather warm time to-day with a delegation from British Columbia with respect to this matter. One of the members from British Columbia and some of the officials of the department were not in entire agreement with regard to the methods employed there, and it will be necessary to have someone in that railway belt in connection with this work. There is also the expenditure of four parties on running lines or levels, one-third share of the expenditure by the Alberta, British Columbia and Provincial Boundary Commission. The government of Alberta have for a considerable number of years been paying for the defining of the boundary line from the international boundary northward. I imagine the work should soon be completed. There is expenditure on surveys of timber berths, and surveys not otherwise provided for, \$20,000. That, briefly, is the report, outside of the topographical mapping and the various items that go to make up the balance of this amount. I do not know just where I could cut this down to the extent of one-half. I am convinced that the amount could be reduced another year, but I do think that men who have been in the service of the Government for ten or fifteen years are entitled to at least a year's notice in order that they may look for other employment. Some of these parties are on the way; some partly and some fully equipped for the work they are to carry on this season.

Mr. GUTHRIE: What is the total for topographical surveys in the three western provinces?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): \$30,000.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I would be inclined to doubt the wisdom of that expenditure. The ordinary topographical survey is made for special purposes, usually for military purposes. The Militia Department has for years been conducting a topographical survey of Canada; every year, this year included, there is an amount to provide for that work. A topographical survey shows every hillock, pond, ditch, wall, fence, tree-stump. It is really for military purposes, and what we want it for throughout western Canada, in addition to the work that has been carried on for the last twenty-five or thirty years by the Militia Depart-