

ment and see the papers, if I shall be accorded that privilege.

The **MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS**. Certainly, I shall be very glad. I would be sorry to have the hon. gentleman think that any letter he wrote to me I would not answer. I may say that when any such letters are received by me they are passed over, with instructions to reply to them, and I do not see them again. If there is any information for which the hon. gentleman has asked and which has not reached him, I shall take pleasure, if he will remind me of it, in seeing that he gets it.

Dominion Lands—Chargeable to Income..... \$90,938 25

Mr. **FOSTER**. Before we pass this item, there is some information I would like to have. The Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) is not here, but I imagine that the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) could give the information I desire. We have some notice of a call for tenders for certain mining franchises in some districts, and I am not quite sure whether in the Yukon, but I fancy somewhere up that way. It was mentioned once in the House—that was the first information the House had of it—that an advertisement had been issued calling for tenders for the purchase of these franchises or privileges. The statement of the Minister of the Interior then was that no contract had been entered into. I believe he also stated the condition upon which tenders were asked, and if so, that will appear in "Hansard." I would like to ask the Minister of Marine and Fisheries if the Government have gone further in this matter. It is a pretty grave question as the hon. Minister will see, to give up large tracts of that country to any company under tender in that way. I would like to know whether anything further has been done, or I would much rather get the information that nothing will be done until the House has had an opportunity of discussing the question of the conditions. This is a matter in which the people at large are vitally interested.

The **MINISTER OF MARINE AND FISHERIES** (Sir Louis Davies). I am not aware that anything further has been done, nor is my colleague (Mr. Fielding), but I will send over to the Deputy Minister of the Interior and will inquire of him and later on I will let the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) know.

To meet cost of arbitration respecting the accounts between the Dominion of Canada and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. (Payments on account of services rendered may be made to members of the civil service, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act)..... \$7,500

Mr. **SPROULE**. I believe that the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) said,

Mr. **GILLIES**.

when this item was under discussion in Committee of Supply, that he would be able to give us some further information on concurrence as to these accounts and the progress that has been made by the arbitrators.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE** (Mr. Fielding). If my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) will turn up the Public Accounts of last year, he will find out quite a lengthy statement covering the matter, which, I think, he will find quite satisfactory, as it explains the whole situation and gives a number of documents. If the hon. gentleman finds that this does not cover what he wants and will call my attention to it later, I will be glad to supplement it.

Mr. **SPROULE**. But the Finance Minister will see that the public accounts only bring the case down to 30th June, 1896. Work has been going on since then of which we have no information.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. There has been nothing material since.

Mr. **SPROULE**. They are not making much headway.

Mr. **FOSTER**. Are the salaries still going on?

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. These cases do not move very rapidly. I have some information with regard to it, but it is virtually a repetition of what appears in the Public Accounts.

Mr. **SPROULE**. What is in the Public Accounts we can see, but we would like some information as to what has been done since.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. One of the matters of importance that is standing over is an appeal, and substantially no progress has been made. This is a very slow matter, as my hon. friend must have learned in the years during which it has been in progress.

Mr. **FOSTER**. What position does the hon. Minister of Justice (Sir Oliver Mowat) take of the matter? I know the position he took two or three years ago, and I wonder whether the reversible patent applies to the Minister of Justice on these questions as well as on others. I hope my hon. friend (Mr. Fielding) will be able to tell me that the Minister of Justice is standing strongly for the Dominion contentions.

The **MINISTER OF FINANCE**. These gentlemen of the legal profession do not seem to have any difficulty in standing strongly for their clients for the time being. At present the Dominion of Canada is the client of the Minister of Justice, and he is standing for the interest of the Dominion with all the loyalty that members