

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I have just read the items. Civil government, legislation, administration of justice and ordinances, public works, education, agriculture and statistics, hospitals, charities and public health, and education of deaf mutes.

Mr. FOSTER. Are those all included in the \$332,000?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. Well, I would recommend the hon. minister to use a little more printer's ink, because it is important that the estimate should show, as nearly as possible, all the different services that it covers. Any one looking at that would think that it is almost entirely for schools.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Suppose we put in 'public works and other purposes.'

Mr. BERGERON. Why not put in all the words which are sent down in the statement of the Territorial government? The wording of this estimate is misleading.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE moved:

That after the word 'printing,' the following words be inserted: 'civil government, legislation, public works, &c.'

Motion agreed to.

Mr. BERGERON. When the government of the North-west Territories asked for \$500,000, they were supposed to be honest, and I would like to know on what basis the hon. gentleman struck off \$160,000.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I suppose that any of the provincial or territorial governments might be trusted to ask for a little more. While we have struck off this amount, we are giving them \$50,000 more than they ever had in any previous year. The mere fact that the Territorial government ask for a great deal more, I do not think is conclusive. They might be content to do with \$50,000 more than they ever got before, and to hope for something better in time to come.

Mr. BERGERON. Must it be accepted as granted that they always ask for more than they need?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I would not say more than they need. They might make use of it if we gave it to them.

Mr. DAVIN. Does not the hon. minister think that they are entitled to more than this? Has he gone into the real claims of the North-west Territories? Take the position of the Territories at this time, take their population, take the extent of the Territories that the local government have to deal with, take the area of the land that this government administer, and in regard to which a sum should be put into the estimates, take these things into consideration, and it seems to me that \$550,000 would be a very moderate sum to give them.

Mr. FOSTER.

The PRIME MINISTER. We are giving them \$500,000.

Mr. DAVIN. I say that for the purposes contemplated of this vote of \$332,000, \$550,000 would be nearer the mark. I do not suppose we have any right here to do what my hon. friend (Mr. Bergeron) would think of doing, namely, to go into the items, because they have practically responsible government now. I do not think we have the right here to inquire into the way that they spend their money.

Mr. BERGERON. Why not if we pay for it.

Mr. DAVIN. If we had the power here I certainly would be inclined to criticise a portion of this item. I find from a return that was brought down this last session at Regina, that there were 500 copies of the Public Accounts Report, ordered in 1898, from one Walter Scott, and the price per page was \$4.80; and there were 2,000 copies of the Public Works Report ordered for 1899 from the aforesaid Walter Scott, and the price per page was \$4.80 with an extra charge for tabular work and use of small type. The Minister of Finance is an expert on a question of that sort, and he will find the Public Works Report and the Public Accounts Report in the Library, and he will see that \$4.80 a page for one and \$4.85 a page for the other is an enormous and monstrous charge; a great deal more than double what any fair charge would be.

Mr. MONTAGUE. Is that done by tender?

Mr. DAVIN. I do not know.

Mr. DAVIS. I think it was let by contract. They manage their own business there and you have no right to criticise their action.

Mr. DAVIN. If as some hon. gentlemen seem to think, we could criticise it, we might go into that; but I myself lean to the view that they are in precisely the same position in regard to this vote as the provinces. They have a ministry up there; they have a responsible government, and the government is responsible to the assembly. I do not think it is our part to criticise it.

Mr. FOSTER. It used to be that we administered the money and then we had a perfect right to criticise all the items. We administered it then and the accounts came back and the Auditor General did his duty with reference to them, but an arrangement was made by which we considered this as a subsidy. They have responsible government, they elect their own members, they have not a very flourishing treasury, but their own members and the needs of the country I should think would be a better check upon them than even anything we could do here at so great a distance. From that time on, this has been considered a subsidy and they have been going on spend-