

have to pay a little more, and in that way there is an occasional increase.

Indians—Ontario and Quebec, \$150,155.

Mr. STAPLES. What progress has been made with the sale of the Indian reservation out at Swan Lake?

Mr. OLIVER. We were only able to secure the surrender of part of the reserve, and we intend selling it this fall about the time the crops are in, so that the surrounding settlers will have a better opportunity to bid on the land.

Mr. STAPLES. The last time I inquired, the minister told me that the sale would likely take place during the summer. No doubt he will carry out what he is now saying and call it in the coming fall which would be an advantage for the surrounding settlers. I hope he will stick to that promise and see that the land is sold and that he will not cease in his efforts to get the balance of the reserve in order that it may be opened up. Is it the intention to continue negotiations?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes, but we find it difficult to get the Indians to sell out altogether, because they would then have to move to another place. We found them not unwilling to part with a portion of the reserve near Battleford, but the Swan reserve is their home, and they object to parting with all their interest in it. However, if the sale turns out well, they may part with the balance.

Mr. STAPLES. Will it be sold by auction?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes, in quarter-section lots.

Mr. STAPLES. To what extent does the minister purpose advertising it?

Mr. OLIVER. We generally give very ample notice, about a month or two advertising in the leading papers of the capital and the local papers in the vicinity. There will be no lack of advertising.

Mr. LAKE. I think the minister will have to issue some new regulations with regard to advertising if he is going to carry out that promise. I have been looking into a number of cases of sales of portions of different reserves which have been thrown open by the Indians relinquishing them. The minister is aware that the Indian lands are in the shape of a trust, and we should do the best we can with them for the Indians. It seems to me that the advertisements are a matter of patronage. I have noticed in the past that advertisements for the sale of Indian lands are only given to those who are on the patronage list. This is a mistake, because it does not give the amount of local advertising which is necessary. Take for in-

stance the sale of the Pasqua reserve, which produced pretty fair prices, but I think it would have produced better prices if it had been better advertised. The advertisement appeared in one or two papers, but it did not appear in all the papers which were circulated through that district, and consequently many people did not know that the sale was going to take place. In the report of Mr. Graham, the inspector of the Indian agency and who conducted the sale, he states that there was insufficient advertising, that many people had not seen the advertisement at all. For the sake of exemplifying this there are two papers published in the town of Indian Head, the nearest large town to this reserve, one is a Liberal and the other a Conservative paper, and the advertisement only appeared in the Liberal paper, so those who only took a Conservative paper did not know anything about the sale. I myself wanted to find out when the sale took place, and I was not able to do so. The words that Mr. Graham used were:

I regret that the sale was not advertised in the local papers. People living in Regina, Indian Head and other local points did not know anything of it.

The advertisement did appear in some of those papers, but not in all of them. That was not the only sale in which I noticed that there was insufficient advertisement. In the sale of the Moose Mountain reserve of land surrendered by the Indians, the same complaint was made. A gentleman who is now an officer of the government, an Indian agent, complained that he had not seen the advertisement. In that case the advertisement was authorized from Ottawa on the 8th October, the sale was to be held on the 15th of November. The first advertisement appeared on the 25th and 28th of October in the Winnipeg 'Free Press' and in the Calgary 'Albertan.' There was an advertisement in one of the French papers of Manitoba and in the Moosomin 'Spectator.' On the 7th of November the first advertisement appeared in the 'Moosomin 'Spectator.' That is the point nearest to the location of these lands, and so it happened that when the sale took place there was practically no competition at all. The arrangements for the sale were such that a man who wanted to tender had to send his tender down to Ottawa accompanied by a portion of the first payment, and therefore the advertisement which appeared on the 7th of November for the sale to take place on the 15th, made it impossible for any of those people who then saw the advertisement for the first time to put in their tender, consequently there was very little competition for the land.

Mr. OLIVER. In what year was that sale held?