

having been settled, it lapsed. They paid a little over \$12,000 on account of this \$30,000.

Mr. FOSTER. The whole account will be \$29,900 ?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes, but the deputy thinks it will be cut down some.

Mr. FOSTER. I think we have done a pretty good night's work.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If my hon. friend is willing to allow the item of \$10,000 for the relief of distressed persons in the North-west Territories to pass, we can take the discussion later.

Mr. FOSTER. That is not the right kind of way to pass estimates.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am sure that I will be willing to give every possible opportunity for discussion. This money was spent, and it had to be spent to relieve the destitution of people in the North-west. This will finish these items, if the hon. gentleman will agree.

Mr. FOSTER. They will not go to the Senate any quicker, or be available any sooner.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. If there is any discussion, every opportunity will be given. I do not think there will be any objection.

Mr. FOSTER. No, we had better let that stand, and get the explanation at the same time.

Yukon—Mounted Police ..... \$500,000

Mr. FOSTER. Will the Prime Minister give us some information about this ?

The PRIME MINISTER. This vote is intended for a force of 250 men. There are 197 men there at present. We have withdrawn the military force from the Yukon and we estimate that we can do with a police force of 250 men. The officers are Supt. Perry, who took the place of Col. Steele, and Supts. Wood, Primrose, Scarth and Rutledge. There are two districts, the Dawson and the Tagish districts, and the men are distributed over a number of stations in these districts.

Mr. FOSTER. Are they boarding out, or have they accommodation for themselves at each station ?

The PRIME MINISTER. I speak under correction, but I think they all have stations for themselves. These stations are thirty miles apart, and we not only provide for the police, but for travellers, miners and so on.

Mr. FOSTER. If the travellers take provisions, do they pay for them ?

The PRIME MINISTER. The instructions are to take money for provisions supplied, but very often they have no money to give.

Mr. FOSTER. It ought not to be so much now.

The PRIME MINISTER. Not now, but everything has been of a very confused character until now, when things are becoming more systematized. When the police went there first they had to act as policemen, teamsters and mail carriers, and customs officers, and so on. We do no post office business now, but I believe we will continue to do some customs business, but not so much as in the past. Every one, I think, will agree that the force has been of great benefit to that country. They have built their stations themselves, and they have performed all the other duties that I have mentioned.

Mr. CLANCY. Are these emergency men at the different stations ?

The PRIME MINISTER. At Regina and Tagish and Dawson, the headquarters, we have a certain number of men always ready to do any kind of work they may be called upon to do.

Mr. FOSTER. Have there been any casualties amongst the force ?

The PRIME MINISTER. Very few.

Mr. FOSTER. Have they been met with force in any case ?

The PRIME MINISTER. Not that I have been informed.

Mr. FOSTER. Are the supplies bought outside, or do you buy them in Dawson ?

The PRIME MINISTER. About 80 per cent of the supplies are bought outside and 20 per cent in Dawson.

Mr. FOSTER. The rule is to buy by contract from outside ?

The PRIME MINISTER. I believe so, except small supplies that are bought on emergency.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the Prime Minister give us an honest expression now ? Was not the taking in of the militia force to the Yukon a failure ?

The PRIME MINISTER. I cannot say that. I am glad to say that the services of the militia were not required, but I believe that the presence of the force had a salutary effect. My hon. friend will remember that when we asked an appropriation for the force in the spring of 1898, there was no opposition to it from any quarter. We knew there would be a rush of a population of a rather rough character, and in anticipation of possible disturbances, we thought it advisable to send the force there. I believe, for my part, that it was the old maxim: If you want to have peace prepare for war. The presence of the militia, no doubt, had a deterrent effect. It is possible that if we doubled the number of mounted police the same result might have been attained.

Mr. FOSTER. Why was Col. Steele recalled ?