

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I stated that the opinion of the Minister of Justice had been procured, and that I had sent it to a clerk to be copied. I will lay it on the Table of the House in a few minutes. That opinion refers to statutory increases in all the departments, and it can be discussed at one stage of the Estimates, as well as at another.

Office of the Comptroller of the N.W.

Mounted Police..... \$10,350

Mr. HUGHES. It is reported that the Mounted Police are to be reduced in number. I would like to know from the Minister of the Interior if that is true.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Yes, it is true.

Mr. HUGHES. To what extent?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. So far as I am able to say at the present, the reduction will amount to about 250 in officers and men. The present force is 750, officers and men, speaking in round numbers, and the intention is to reduce it to about 500.

Mr. HUGHES. Has there been a detachment of police newly enrolled and sent north to the Yukon country recently?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Yes, there has been.

Mr. DAVIN. This question of the reduction of the Mounted Police force will come up at another time. I intend to speak on it.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. I appreciate the hon. gentleman's intention.

Department of Indian Affairs \$45,090

Mr. FOSTER. We would like to have the full explanations of this.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Would the hon. gentleman say what particular portion he wishes to have explained?

Mr. FOSTER. All of it.

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. That would involve simply the reading of the details, which I presume the hon. gentleman does not wish to have done. I will state the chief changes in the department. In the first place, it is proposed to unite the office of Deputy Superintendent General with the office of Deputy Minister of the Interior, which makes a reduction of \$3,200. It is proposed to do away with the office of Solicitor, which secures a reduction so far as this department is concerned, but an increase of \$400 in the Department of Justice. It is proposed to raise the salary of the gentleman who has been at the head of the Land and Timber branch, to \$2,000, and to make him secretary and chief clerk. It is proposed to appoint a law clerk; he is not appointed yet.

Mr. FOSTER. What is Mr. McLean's present salary?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. \$1,800.

Mr. FOSTER. When was he appointed?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. In 1873 or 1874, I am not able to say positively which. The law clerk to be appointed will receive a salary of \$2,000. The accountant and chief clerk receives \$1,950. There is a reduction in the number of first-class clerks. The first-class clerks were estimated last year at \$15,125; this year at \$9,700. Second class clerks, we estimated last year at \$10,687.50, and this year at \$9,600. Third class clerks last year at \$17,337.50, and this year at \$18,350. The changes in the clerkships arise from the fact that two have died, and it is not intended to fill their places, and it is proposed to superannuate two of the clerks at the end of this year.

Mr. FOSTER. Who are they?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Mr. Wm. McGirr. I was in error in saying there were two; there is only one. I can give in detail an explanation of the decrease. There is a saving in the Department of Indian Affairs, by combining the office of Superintendent General of Indian Affairs and that of Deputy Minister of Interior, amounting to \$3,200, and there is the abolition of the solicitorship, \$400. Then there is the abolition of two first-class clerkships and a reduction in the salary of one first-class clerk. The reduction took place because the official unfortunately was so much addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors that I found it necessary to dismiss him, but subsequently, upon his very strong promise to reform, I took him back at a reduced salary, upon probation for six months. There is the abolition of a second-class clerkship, and the salaries of messengers transferred from this department to that of civil government contingencies, \$600, and statutory increases not granted, \$102.50.

Mr. FOSTER. Why was Mr. McGirr superannuated?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. Because I came to the conclusion that his services were not necessary in the department, that is to say, his services could not be satisfactorily made use of to the advantage of the department. I might add that Mr. McGirr was brought down from the outside service some time ago, I think in 1892 or 1893, and the work which he had been doing in the office here did not seem to me work which called for the employment of a clerk. I considered him unnecessary and recommended his superannuation.

Mr. HUGHES. Who is now doing the work he did?

The MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR. It is done in the secretary's branch. His duties