

leases have been granted within the last year or two years, and that these people have three years within which to complete the filling up of their ranches, tolerable progress has been made in connection with them. We have adopted the plan now, in consequence of the numerous applications which are being received, not from Canadians but from Americans, who are coming over to our side and bringing their herds, of charging two cents, and the greatest possible pressure is being brought to bear on the department by interests that are intimately connected with the Northwest, not in any sense political, but connected with the ranche business, representing that we are charging too much, and ought to revert to the 1 cent an acre. For myself, I do not think we ought, and I believe it is the intention of the Government to adhere to the policy we have adopted of charging two cents. (Hear, hear.) But the hon. gentleman says we have sold those lands—that is practically the statement—at 16 cents an acre, the 1 cent rental being 6 per cent. on that. What do we give these people? We give them the right to graze their cattle upon a certain area of land, but we reserve to the settler the right of going into that country; and every even-numbered section in that whole ranche country is as open today for settlement as if there were no cattle grazing upon it. These people run the risk, therefore, if they get a good ranche, with a good deal of bottom lands upon it, of having settlers crowding in upon them; and, after they get their cattle there, they may find the settlers crowding in to such an extent that they are seriously inconvenienced in the work they have specially set for themselves. (Hear, hear.) So that we have not locked up the land from settlement, but on the contrary have reserved for the settler, that being the first consideration, the right to go in there and settle. We have received already on account of these ranche lands, an amount which would not have been received at all, of which we would not have seen a dollar, of \$76,531.29. (Cheers.) But that is not all. What is the result in another sense?

AS THE RESULT OF THIS RANCHE BUSINESS, as the result of encouraging people to come in here and bring their herds and raise cattle in the country, we are able to supply our Mounted police and our In-

dians at a far lower price than we could have done otherwise. In connection with the Northwest Mounted police we have the cost of beef supplied during the last three years, \$95,540, and, under the contract we are just letting in the Indian department to persons within the country and whose cattle are within the country, we would, at their prices, get the same supply for \$54,917.52, or about \$41,000 of a saving upon the three years' operations in connection with the beef supply of the Northwest Mounted police. (Cheers.) Then I find that, with regard to the Indian supply, taking the supply of last year at the price we paid for it, and taking the same quantity at the price for which we are now letting contracts as the result of this ranche business being carried on within the country, the saving to the country would be \$80,500, or on these two items alone over \$120,000, which may fairly be added in the meantime to the amount we have received for the ranches themselves as showing what the advantage to the country has been. (Cheers.) Does the hon. gentleman pretend to say that we should not have adopted the ranche principle? Does he pretend to say that we should not have encouraged the herding of cattle in our Northwestern prairies, which are so well adapted for grazing purposes, so well adapted that they are attracting at this moment the attention of Americans who are bringing their cattle over from the other side? No, sir, I venture to say that if we had not done this, if we had allowed this land to lie fallow, and made no effort to utilize it to the public advantage, while not interfering with the settlement of the country, the first person to attack us would have been the hon. gentlemen opposite, who would have pointed out that we were recreant to our duty in not securing the revenue to the country from this land which a wise policy would have enabled us to realize. (Cheers.) In the United States they don't adopt this plan. There a ranchman and a number of his cowboys take up homesteads near together; they get four or five or six thousand acres in a block in that way. They make that their headquarters: it is their own land; they get it under the ordinary homestead and pre-emption system that prevails in the United States, and then their cattle graze over the whole