

settled districts but if our commissioners find that since last year these districts have become thickly settled they are authorized to pay the general rates.

Mr. LAKE. What do you call a thickly settled township?

Mr. FISHER. We leave that to the judgment of the commissioner, but on the basis of the last census and the record of homestead entries since the last census, since we have made a schedule of the settled districts. With reasonable expedition the enumerators ought to be able to earn from \$5 to \$6.50 per day covering labour and expenses. I thought that was a reasonable and fairly liberal rate, but some people do not think so, and I have had a good many requests to pay more. I have not done so, and I am glad to say that with very few exceptions the whole work is now going on, I believe, satisfactorily; but in some instances where I could not get enumerators to do that work, it is being done by the commissioner of the mounted police. I am told that there are twelve such cases out of 650 in the Northwest.

Mr. LAKE. I am not surprised at that, and I am glad that the minister did not increase the rate of pay. I saw the complaint in just one paper the Estevan 'Mercury.' But there is absolutely no cause for complaint in these figures. I had no idea that these different sums were cumulative, one in addition to the other. It seems to me that a man can make a very substantial income out of these figures.

Mr. FISHER. He can make from \$5 to \$6.50 a day.

Mr. LAKE. Easily. The only difficulty I see about the matter is that some of the districts are rather large, and it may take considerable time to get them enumerated.

Mr. FISHER. I have given my commissioners power, if they find that to be the case and delay to occur, to subdivide the districts; but they have had to do that in only one or two instances.

Mr. Wm. WRIGHT. I wish to bring to the attention of the minister a complaint which I made last year in regard to the previous census, that is, the mixing up of urban and rural populations. Last year the Minister of Agriculture said that, in the taking of this census, that would be provided for. I recognize the difficulty of doing this, owing to the method of municipal incorporation in the Northwest, by which large areas are included in the villages and towns; but with a little common sense and proper instructions to the enumerators, it could be fairly and reasonably done so as to give us a fair idea of the number of people in the villages and towns, and in that way we would be able to get at the actual number of farmers in that

Mr. FISHER.

country. A similar complaint was made with regard to the provinces down by the sea, but that will come up when the time for the regular census comes round. Has provision been made to cover that point?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, and the information which my hon. friend refers to has already been compiled for the last census, and has been published in one of the immigration pamphlets. I will send him a copy of it.

Mr. LAKE. Will the census of the Northwest be taken township by township?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Grant to Charlottetown exhibition for 1906, \$10,000.

Mr. FISHER. The Prince Edward Island people said that they never expected to get the grant for the Dominion exhibition, and in view of the fact that the Dominion exhibition is to be held at Halifax this year, they ask for a little assistance exhibitors at Halifax to come there afterwards.

Quarantine, health of animals, \$75,000.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD. I beg to call the attention of the minister to the position of matters in regard to what is called the Pictou Cattle Disease, a disease which arose in the eastern portion of Nova Scotia and has extended through most of the eastern counties and latterly, as I understand, has also appeared in Prince Edward Island. For a long number of years this disease has been regarded as a contagious disease and compensation has been paid where animals have been killed under the supervision of the officers of the department by virtue of the provision of the statute which relates to contagious diseases. I understand the department have been experimenting in Antigonish as to the cause of and possibly remedy for the disease. I would like to know the exact position of affairs as the matter is one of some importance to us.

Mr. FISHER. This disease has been local in its character affecting cattle in the counties of Pictou, Antigonish and just lately a few on Prince Edward Island. For a long time the disease was rather a mystery, and attempts were made to deal with it, but it amounted simply to this, that every year we spent about \$4,000 in compensation for the slaughter of animals affected with this disease supposed to be contagious. This has been going on for twenty odd years. Dr. Rutherford wished me to make a thorough investigation. The general impression down there was that the disease depended on the animals eating a weed commonly called Stinking Willie, prevalent in that district. We took a piece of land infested with this weed and put perfectly healthy cattle from another part of the country on that land. We allowed them to pasture on that weed