

northwest of The Pas, on controlled traverses and settlement surveys, the figures being, respectively, \$18,000, \$15,000 and \$8,000.

As regards the Mackenzie river survey, I have personal knowledge of the requirements in that district, where it will be necessary to send a party. There are a number of settlements which have been asking for surveys, for settlement and not for agricultural purposes; and the surveys are necessary, too, for the allocation of the oil leases and also in view of the conditions that prevail generally in the district.

Mr. GOULD: In regard to the Mackenzie river survey, I understand that parties have already started on that expedition and that possibly two years' work will be entailed. The members of the party will, I believe, be absent from the city throughout that time. Is that correct?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): So far no party has remained in the north during the winter and it is doubtful whether this party will do so. The expenditure in connection with one party of subdivision surveys of Alberta and the Peace river block is largely entailed on account of the oil development and the settlement that is going on in the Peace river block of the Dominion lands. Some of the Alberta members will know what the requirements there are. Then there is an expenditure of \$8,000 for four parties on resurveys, retracement surveys, and miscellaneous surveys in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and for three parties at \$3,500 each, making a total of \$18,500. That is general work that will have to be undertaken by some one, and eventually, if the resources go to the provinces, will be paid for by the provinces themselves. The critics of this particular work will agree that it is necessary, and it has all been asked for. There is an expenditure on four parties on examination of land for general settlement, at \$5,000 per party. That is investigation work carried on by the engineers for the classification of soils in lands not already settled. In connection with this matter, the information that the Immigration Department gets from intending settlers from the United States is that 90 per cent of the people who decide to come to western Canada come for the purpose of locating on free land. That, apparently, is the inducement that brings them to western Canada, and it is one of

the reasons why, this year at all events, I did not recommend to Parliament the cutting out of the free homesteads and offering for sale all lands in the public domain. I am anxious that that should be done, but I realize the necessity for bringing people to the western plains. Now, I am not suggesting that they go on the Crown lands; indeed, I do not believe that a very large percentage will go on those lands when they thoroughly understand the conditions, but that they will rather purchase lands that are convenient to railways, churches and schools. But, needless to say, a free homestead appears to be the lure that draws people to western Canada, and the classification of these lands is of immense value. I was amazed to find how much it meant in connection with soldiers' settlement, and how much has been saved in this connection, although it cost money to do this work.

Mr. McTAGGART: Is it true that certain areas in the western provinces have been withdrawn from homestead entry at the present time?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes, for soldiers' settlement purposes I am told.

Mr. McTAGGART: For how long, and what is the area withdrawn?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am told that the period of withdrawal is indefinite, and probably will last only so long as the soldiers' settlement requirements continue. But, knowing Alberta as I do, I think I am safe in saying that there is very little crown land of first class, or even of second class character within fifteen miles of a railway.

Mr. McTAGGART: The people in the southwestern part of Saskatchewan whom I have the honour to represent have been led to believe that crown lands in that district were withdrawn from homestead entry because new regulations were to be brought down. Can the minister give us any information in regard to that?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): That is scarcely correct. Representations have been made to the department by settlers who are desirous of moving, and who have already enjoyed the privilege of securing a homestead, to re-enter for another homestead in the northern part of the province. That is quite agreeable to the department, and, in Saskatchewan, can be arranged through the provincial Department of Agriculture, which takes upon itself the re-