

stituency. The district is an oat growing district. Does the minister know what particular reservation this is for?

Mr. OLIVER. It is for the Cree reservation.

Mr. BRADBURY. It is a singular thing that you have to buy potatoes for the Clandeboye reservation, in a district where they raise hundreds of thousands of bushels, one of the finest potato districts in the world.

Mr. OLIVER. There are 150 bushels wanted at the Clandeboye agency. I cannot say why it is wanted. But it does not follow that because some Indians may have seed the others have it.

Live stock, \$6,960.

Mr. ROCHE. Is this expenditure purely for the purpose of improving the stock?

Mr. OLIVER. For the purpose of keeping up the stock and increasing it, with an eye to improving it. They are killing stock from year to year, as permitted by the agent. The stock is increasing and improving.

Mr. LAKE. I notice that very large prices are paid for stock which is sent to some of the reservations. I notice one person at Guelph has apparently been shipping up bulls to some of the reservations at an average price of \$115. Quite a number of cattle have been sent up by him. I am sure that in the old settlements nearer these reservations, bulls of equally good quality could be got at much lower prices. In fact I notice that many of the reservations are supplied by the local associations. For instance the Alberta Stock Association appears to supply a number at \$60 and \$70 a piece. The Manitoba Stock Association appears to have supplied some at about the same price. That, I think, is about the price at which good bulls could be got in that country. In the district where I live it has been difficult to dispose of thoroughbred stock. Even yet there is good stock to be got at a much lower price than \$115 at which a good deal of the demand appears to have been supplied.

Mr. OLIVER. I believe in years past there have been some purchases of stock from Mr. McRae at Guelph. I believe he is one of the few breeders of Galloways in the country and it was thought well to experiment with a breed of cattle, that, being supposed to be particularly hardy, would be more likely to do well than other breeds under the possibly not high-class attention that they would receive at the hands of the Indians. But during the past two years the large majority of the thoroughbred horned stock that has been purchased has been bought at the stock sales at Calgary, Regina and Brandon, each province being

supplied from the purchases at its own stock sale. We have found that very satisfactory and propose to continue it, provided the sales are continued successfully.

Mr. ROCHE. What is the name of the agent at Portage la Prairie?

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Logan.

Mr. ROCHE. I noticed his name figuring in the Auditor General's Report for the sale of a great quantity of stock to the Department of Indian Affairs.

Mr. OLIVER. In last year's report?

Mr. ROCHE. Yes, in the report ending 31st March, 1908.

Mr. OLIVER. What page?

Mr. ROCHE. I noticed one item, page I—20, in connection with the Birtle agency. It says: 'Logan, R., agent, Birtle.' He is not the agent at Birtle. Mr. Wheatley is the agent. I have seen Mr. Logan's name in several places as disposing of stock in the Portage la Prairie agency to the amount of several hundred dollars.

Mr. OLIVER. I do not understand the item, but I will inquire into the meaning of it as it appears in the Auditor General's Report, and let my hon. friend have whatever explanation there is in regard to it.

Mr. MAGRATH. There is a feature in connection with two reserves, with which my hon. friend is familiar, which has been brought to his attention before and which I propose to refer to now briefly. One is the Blood Indian agency and the other the Blackfeet Indian agency. I presume this is about as favourable an opportunity to speak of it as I cannot see any item particularly dealing with agencies. The situation of the Blood agency is this: They hold about 345,000 acres of land. They had a population, according to the last report, of 1,178, and the excess of births over deaths in the last year amounts to 10. But by going back to 1897 I find that the population on that reserve was 1,300, or a decrease of practically a little over a hundred. So that these reserves are becoming depopulated as time goes on. Looking over the returns I find that they have 3,100 horses and 5,500 head of horned stock, or about 8,600 head altogether. We know that that amount of stock will not require more than 150,000 acres and these Indians have 345,000 acres. The Indians are disappearing and I believe, and I am satisfied the hon. gentleman himself believes, that there should be something done with a certain amount of the surplus land so that the Indians who are there to-day may get some benefit from it. There happens to be, as the hon. gentleman knows, a settlement on the south boundary of that reserve which cannot extend in any direction except on to the reserve, and I be-