

taining the services of a few officers on call, and as we had some buildings at Emerson, I had to keep a caretaker.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. Notwithstanding the decreased expenditure you are asking the same amount this year as last.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. This vote should be for animal quarantine, and not simply cattle quarantine. The expenses have been largely increased, partly in consequence of hog killing, and partly in consequence of our taking over the work in British Columbia. We have had to do a great deal of work in British Columbia which formerly was not done at all. We are getting a great many calls for the inspection of animals, and demands on the time of the chief inspector and his assistants, which have increased the travelling expenses and general expenditure very greatly.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. What are the reasons of the change in the staff at Emerson from the inspector down to the stableman?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. There were statements made in regard to their conduct in the election which required a change.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. On account of what?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. Partisan conduct in the election.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. Which election?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. The election of 1896.

Mr. LaRIVIERE. I did not know the news would travel that far so soon.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. The understanding was to allow one item on immigration to stand, and that the question generally could be discussed on that.

Mr. DAVIN. If it is understood that the whole matter of immigration can be discussed on the one item, there will be no objection.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. That is the understanding.

Expenses of Committees, sessional and extra clerks, &c..... \$14,200

Mr. MONTAGUE. What is the total number of sessional clerks, messengers and pages?

Mr. SPEAKER. Twenty-five sessional clerks, the same as usual, about 45 messengers, and 20 pages.

Books for Library of American History.. \$1,000

Mr. MONTAGUE. Is any of that amount to be given to Mr. Kingsford?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That matter is under consideration and may be mentioned in the Supplementary Estimates.

Mr. DAVIN. I hope it will be considered favourably. I think that really that work

Mr. FISHER.

of Mr. Kingsford is one that may well meet with some recognition on the part of the Government.

Mr. MONTAGUE. I quite agree with the hon. member for Assiniboia. There can be no doubt about the value of the material which Mr. Kingsford has collected, particularly for future reference. I hope the Government will see fit to give it a small grant.

Mr. CLANCY. How many volumes?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. Nine volumes, and he purposes issuing a tenth.

Excise \$451,776 25

Mr. MONTAGUE. There is nothing for Li Hung Chang in this?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. Some hon. gentleman wanted to know some days ago what the rat traps were for that we had purchased and whether they had anything to do with Li Hung Chang. I may explain the case. There is a proverb which says that the rats deserted the sinking ship. There were no rats when we came into power. I do not know whether they had all left just before, but if so, they had evidently recovered confidence, for they came back in multitudes.

Mr. MONTAGUE. And as the hon. gentleman (Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière) felt that the ship might sink, he bought the traps in order to retain the rats.

Culling timber..... \$19,350

Mr. CLANCY. What is the reason for the increase of contingencies here?

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. The timber trade made such advance last year that, up to the 31st March last, we had collected \$12,373 against \$6,300 in the same time last year—more than double the amount. To get the specifications ready in time we had to employ extra clerks.

Adulteration of food and fertilizers, and the administration of the Act respecting fraudulent marking..... \$25,000

Mr. CLANCY. It would be well for us to have some little explanation of this item. It is not a large one, but it is very important.

The MINISTER OF INLAND REVENUE. This includes the expense of all the analyses made, and of the reports and bulletins that are issued every month. There are no new features in connection with the item.

Customs \$983,780

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. I think there will be no objection to the passing of this item, on the understanding that the committee is to have full liberty of discussion on other items of the Customs, and to be free to take up any matter whether relating to these items or not.