

that the work will be very considerably increased during the present year.

Mr. FOSTER. Here is an odd comment on that. At page H-74 of the Auditor General's Report I find that the Dominion lands revenue at Lethbridge was \$17,000 odd in 1897-8, and \$8,000 odd in 1898-9, a decrease of \$8,891. If the land revenue has fallen off more than 50 per cent in the last year, the increased work which you base doubling the clerical staff is hardly borne out. In the revenue from timber agencies at Lethbridge there has been a decrease of about 30 per cent. What is the minister's explanation of that?

Mr. CLANCY. Has Mr. Stephenson made a request for the appointment of those clerks for which the hon. gentleman is now making provision?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. There is no doubt that the report of the inspector with regard to these matters would influence the department altogether. He would be the one who would advise us whether extra assistance was required or not.

Mr. CLANCY. I find the following paragraph in his report:

There have been few changes in the personnel of the staff of the respective agencies. Owing to the death of Mr. W. J. Scott, agent at Battleford, a vacancy occurred which was filled by the appointment of Mr. R. F. Chisholm. The other changes were few and of minor importance.

Did Mr. Stephenson bring pressure on the department to have these extra clerks appointed? There seems to be nothing in his report to suggest that they are required.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Certainly, the necessity has been pointed out to the department, or else this would not be in the estimates at all.

Mr. FOSTER. We have not had any explanation of why you are going to double the clerical service when the revenues have fallen off more than 50 per cent. Does it not show that the work is not so great as it was?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Because there was a large payment of money received it does not follow that the work was not greater.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman has not shown that it was. That is only a supposition. I do not want to be insistent; but we are asked to give \$900 for an extra clerk at Lethbridge, and when we ask the reason why we get the statement, that it is because there is more work to be done. It would be utterly foolish to ask for an extra clerk and add 100 per cent to the working force unless you backed up your request by the statement that there was more work to do. But look at the actual results. The land revenue and timber revenue have fallen off more than 50 per cent, and it is a

Mr. SUTHERLAND.

fair supposition that the work of the office has fallen off in proportion.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I quite admit that that is a fair supposition, but I am informed that the difference between the two years may be accounted for by some large payments of money. There is no clerk at present in that office, and the land agent is asking for assistance.

Mr. FOSTER. He got along without one before. And now that only half the revenue is coming in, I cannot see the reason for giving an extra man.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The former agent was unable to do the work, and applied for assistance, and a man who was thought more capable, was put in his place, and he too finds he cannot do the work alone.

Mr. FOSTER. The explanation is not satisfactory, but I do not want to keep discussing this item all night.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I will furnish the hon. gentleman any more details I can obtain on another occasion. There has been an addition to the agent's salary at Calgary of \$200, which makes his salary \$1,400. There has been the appointment of another homestead inspector for Prince Albert district. His name is James McArthur, and salary \$1,000.

Mr. FOSTER. What is the explanation of adding \$500 to the salary of the first officer there, Mr. Stephenson? He is now getting \$2,500.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. He has been a long time in the office, and his duties have increased very largely. I have made careful inquiries, and find that he is a very efficient officer, and deserves this increase.

Mr. CLANCY. He made but seventy homestead entries during the last year.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I will bring down a comparative statement, showing how his duties have increased.

Mr. CLANCY. The agent at Calgary had 208 homestead entries, and the agent at Yorkton only 261. Both together would be scarcely a man's work.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I have explained that there will be a very large increase in the number of settlers going into that particular district referred to. At Yorkton there will perhaps be over 1,000 entries this year. If those entries are not to be made, a clerk will not be appointed. The information in the possession of the department, leads us to expect a large number of settlers, and it would be very poor policy not to provide for assistance, so as to meet the wants of the settlers as promptly as possible.

Mr. CLANCY. How many clerks in the Dawson office?