

able to effect this saving in the western territory.

Mr. McQUARRIE: What offices were closed?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): We closed the Saskatoon and Swift Current offices and reduced the staff in others. We also closed the Kamloops office, but found it necessary to re-open it to provide for the business in that particular locality.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Was any saving effected in British Columbia at all?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Not in the closing of offices, but we have not as big a staff there as we had formerly.

Mr. McQUARRIE: The minister speaks of amalgamation; does he refer to the Forestry branches?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): No. My hon. friend will find an increase in that vote when we reach it.

Mr. McTAGGART: How many inspectors are in the field in the timber and grazing branch in Saskatchewan and Alberta and who are they?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): We have fourteen timber inspectors and twenty-seven homestead inspectors but we have not got them divided by provinces.

Mr. McTAGGART: I understand the inspector who has been inspecting grazing leases in Saskatchewan has his headquarters at Kamloops B.C. I was wondering how large his district is.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Their territories are pretty extensive. As far as possible we keep these men within a reasonable distance of where they reside but when a dispute arises and a reinspection is ordered, we send in a chief inspector from the outside. Generally speaking, we have discontinued the separation of homestead and grazing inspection, these two lines being somewhat similar, but timber inspection has to do with entirely different work and is a distinct branch in itself.

Mr. McTAGGART: I understand that last summer the policy of issuing grazing leases for ten years only was changed, and that now these leases are issued for a term of twenty-one years. What was the reason for this change of policy?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): As my hon. friend knows, the cattle raisers have had a rather difficult time, and for financial reasons

were not able to develop the cattle industry to the same extent as would be possible on a more permanent basis. The banks apparently look upon any investment in cattle with more favour if the cattle man has a twenty-one year lease. Therefore after listening to all the representations that were made, I felt it was the right thing to extend the term of these leases, particularly in the southern grazing areas. I consulted both provincial governments in respect to the matter and they agreed that it would be wise on our part to change the leases, and we are therefore issuing twenty-one year leases in southern Saskatchewan and Alberta. North of the old pre-emption area we still issue the ten-year leases.

Mr. McTAGGART: I take it that it is the policy of the department to encourage the development of the private ranching industry?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. McTAGGART: Then is it the departmental policy to encourage the development of the community pasture idea?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): That is an entirely different matter. Community leases are granted by and under the control of the provincial government; they can handle the matter very much better than we can at this distance from the scene of operations. But reports are made on all these leases as they come up for renewal, and if it is thought desirable and companies can be organized, the province is ready to do it. But the federal authorities do not lease them in that way.

Mr. McTAGGART: Then the department does encourage the development of the community pasture idea?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): We do not interfere in the matter. If it is the desire of the provincial government that a private lessee shall be given a new lease and it is the intention to turn it into a community pasture, we leave it to the provincial government.

Mr. McTAGGART: That comes under the legislation passed two years ago?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. McTAGGART: It is my impression that under that legislation it is necessary that the person enjoying the lease give notice to the provincial government of renewal or cancellation three years before the expiry of the lease.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): It used to be four years. Application for renewal is usually made a sufficient time ahead to