

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. That is hardly the distinction. One kind represents an actual quantity of land, and the other a money payment on the purchase of any quantity of land.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. I am sure the House will be pleased to know that many of the half-breeds are taking the scrip that represents the land. For the benefit of those who take the old form of scrip, an effort is made to keep the price as high as possible, so that they may get as much benefit out of it as possible.

Mr. CLANCY. It does not seem to me there is much difference in value whether it is transferable or not.

The PRIME MINISTER. The point is that sometimes the half-breeds sell the scrip for a mere song.

Mr. FOSTER. The question undoubtedly was a difficult one, and there is some force in the way the Premier puts it. The course taken, can only be palliated on the ground that every effort was made to cause the half-breeds to study their own interest and not throw their scrip away. We are not wholly free from responsibility unless our officers joined with such men as Father Lacombe, who is on the ground and who has great influence with the half-breeds and others whom they trust to find a way by which they could be helped to help themselves. It certainly makes a difficulty when a man like Father Lacombe himself, after talking with them, finds that he cannot persuade them. How much of this scrip has been issued since this commission began? I suppose it is not issued to others than half-breeds?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. I am not very familiar with the scrip business.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like the hon. Minister of Finance to look into it and see if it is not time that the unauthorized issue of what are practically government bills should be taken out of the hands of the department. The Minister of the Interior himself has the power under the Act to issue scrip I think.

The PRIME MINISTER. I believe the scrip is about all issued.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. It is the expectation that every claim will soon be settled.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE. When the hon. gentleman (Mr. Foster) speaks of unauthorized scrip, I suppose he has no special case in mind, but fears that it might be abused.

Mr. FOSTER. The issue of what is practically money is not generally left to the discretion of a minister.

Mr. SUTHERLAND. It only affects the Department of the Interior, and only as respects lands.

Mr. FOSTER. But, so long as you have lands to sell and do sell them, this scrip partakes of the nature of a bank bill.

Mr. CLANCY. Are there certain localities for which the land is to be taken up for the scrip?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. A half-breed accepting scrip can take land wherever Dominion lands are to be granted; and if it is transferable scrip, it is accepted as payment on lands from any person who may owe the Crown.

Miscellaneous—Expenses of government in district of Keewatin \$2,190

Mr. FOSTER. What is this spent for? Is it an appendage of the government of Manitoba?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Yes.

Mr. FOSTER. What was spent last year, and what for?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. Out of this appropriation, the secretary to the governor gets \$600 and the clerk \$480. The lieutenant-governor looks after this expenditure, it seems to be altogether under his jurisdiction.

Maintenance, construction of roads, bridges and other necessary works in connection with the Hot Springs reservation near Banff station, N.W.T. \$11,920

Mr. FOSTER. What is to be done with this money?

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The salaries appear to be the same, \$2,420. Last year \$2,000 was voted for repairs to buildings, which is not necessary this year. Repairing roads, there is an increase of \$500, the whole amount to be expended is \$1,000. Last year we voted \$500 for new roads, nothing is required this year for that purpose. New buildings required this year, \$1,500. There is a new bridge over the Cascade River to cost \$500. The care of buffaloes and other animals is the same. There are twenty-one or twenty-two buffaloes. They were doing very well when I was there last year. An increase of two is reported this year. A man is employed to take care of them, who rides round on a pony. Then, there is required for heating apparatus this year, \$700; clearing land, \$500; contingencies, \$1,000. The superintendent at Banff is Mr. Douglas, formerly a resident of Calgary.

To provide for the survey of the boundary between the Yukon territory and British Columbia from Teslin Lake to the Alsek River \$14,000

Mr. SUTHERLAND. The amount to be spent is divided as follows: Astronomical party, \$6,000; survey, \$8,000.

Mr. FOSTER. How near is this work to completion?