

elsewhere have been assimilated into the society of the country at great expense and now that they have grown accustomed to our ways and are used to our climate they would make much better settlers than new immigrants whom, as the hon. member has suggested, we may hunt out of the extreme ends of the earth. This is an important question and I would earnestly ask the minister to take it into his most serious consideration. We are passing through trying times and I hope that he will consider the question favourably.

Mr. McQUARRIE: Will the minister give us the details of this item?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The details of this estimate are as follows:

1. Expenses of 30 homestead appraisers, including purchase, renewals and repairs of travelling outfits, etc..	\$60,000
2. Expenses of 13 timber inspectors, including, as in the above item, purchase, renewals and repairs of travelling outfits, etc.. . . .	16,000
3. Expenses of 3 inspectors of ranches.. . . .	6,000
4. Expenses of 13 Dominion Lands and Crown Timber agencies. These expenses consist in the payment of telegrams, telephones, commission and postage to sub-agents, clerical assistance of a temporary nature only, janitor service, etc..	27,000
5. Travelling expenses of outside officials when away on Government business, including Superintendent of Western Land agencies, assistant land agency inspectors, travelling auditor, etc..	24,000
6. Printing and stationery. This item is to cover the cost of printed forms used in transacting public business, the purchase and repairs of typewriters and for all stationery required in the Dominion land offices and sub-land offices.. . . .	25,000
7. Advertising re sale of timber berths; also to cover accounts in connection with lands open for entry, etc..	2,000
8. Motor car service at Ottawa, including repairs to and renewals for trucks for delivery of mail and files, minister's car, etc.. . . .	5,000
9. Miscellaneous; Freight and express charges, telegrams, etc., paid at Ottawa, and for unforeseen expenses during 1925-1926.. . . .	10,000
	\$175,000

Mr. McQUARRIE: How much was spent last year?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am sorry I cannot give the details for last year, but the year before we spent \$160,740.05, and as my hon. friend will note we have reduced the estimate by \$35,000 this year as compared with last year.

Mr. COOTE: How many homestead entries were there last year?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The report shows 3,855.

Mr. COOTE: Does the report show the number of abandonments?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): No, they drag on from year to year.

Mr. SPENCER: Has the minister any record showing where the homesteads were taken in the different provinces?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I have not that information by provinces but by land districts. They are as follows:

Manitoba—	
Dauphin.. . . .	314
Winnipeg.. . . .	317
Saskatchewan—	
Battleford.. . . .	159
Moose Jaw.. . . .	79
Prince Albert.. . . .	1,308
Saskatoon.. . . .	139
Swift Current.. . . .	13
Alberta—	
Calgary.. . . .	147
Edmonton.. . . .	942
Grande Prairie.. . . .	94
Lethbridge.. . . .	21
Peace River.. . . .	142
British Columbia—	
Kamloops.. . . .	78
New Westminster.. . . .	86
Revelstoke (6 months).. . . .	16

Mr. SPENCER: Is the government giving any encouragement to homesteading in the Peace river district just now?

Mr. BANCROFT: The minister said there were thirteen in Swift Current.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): That was before the office was closed.

Mr. BANCROFT: I was going to suggest that it should be closed.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): What encouragement is the government giving to settlement in the Peace river district?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): We are not giving any encouragement to homesteaders there.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The minister is right; the government is not giving any encouragement and the sooner we get a railway line there the better it will be.

Mr. SPENCER: Is it the intention of the government to stop sending settlers there until railway transportation is provided?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): We cannot stop settlers from going.

Mr. COOTE: Has the government a land office in the Peace river area?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Item agreed to.