

Winnipeg, of which Mr. Bruce Walker is the chief. The actual work is entirely under his direction. Through the medium of his staff, he deals with the applications, purchases the grain, and attends to its delivery. A lien is taken upon the homesteader's land for the value of the grain. At present a number of the officials of the Land Department are assisting the Immigration Department in the transaction of this work.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. A few years ago the government of Canada paid a large sum of money for seed grain because of a great failure of crop in the west. If in order, I would ask the minister to give a short explanation of the condition of that at present. How much has been paid back, and how much is still unpaid?

Mr. OLIVER. I am sorry I have not got the figures here, but some time ago in answer to a question, I did give the exact figures. Out of all the advances we have made in all these years, there is only something like \$100,000 outstanding, which is a very small fraction of the total amount.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. I quite agree that if only \$100,000 is outstanding, that is a very satisfactory showing.

Canadian national parks, further amount required, \$8,000.

Mr. DANIEL. How many national parks have we?

Mr. OLIVER. We are arranging that there shall be a Rocky Mountain park which will include what are now three parks. This relates especially to the purchase of buffalo. Some years ago arrangements were made to purchase the herd owned by a man named Pablo in Montana. We have now acquired nearly the whole of this herd. There is a small herd owned by Mrs. Conrad, of Montana, which we have acquired as well. We have purchased 30 head, of which 15 have been delivered and the other 15 are to be delivered in the spring.

Mr. DANIEL. How much does each herd cost delivered in the park?

Mr. OLIVER. We paid \$250 per head for Mrs. Conrad's herd delivered on board the train. These buffaloes are crated so that they are transported under more favourable conditions than the herd we bought from Mr. Pablo which were put into the cars without any special arrangement. We paid \$200 per head to Mr. Pablo and the cost of transportation, which made the cost about \$250 per head.

Mr. DANIEL. How many buffalo all told, have you got?

Mr. OLIVER. About 950 head. We received our first shipment in June, 1907, 199; October, 1907, 211; July, 1909, 109; October, 1909, 28; June, 1910, 46; October, 1910, 28. There are still about 70 head to be delivered from the Pablo herd. We have already received 15 from Mrs. Conrad and expect 15 more in the spring. Then we shall have the only buffalo herd of any account on the continent.

Mr. DANIEL. Are they increasing by natural increase?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes, but they have been at very considerable disadvantage so far on account of the very rough character of the trip, the rounding of them up, and shipping on the train. We located the first two shipments in a temporary park and had to reshipe them again, so that the main herd has only been in quiet condition on their present location for about a year and a half.

Mr. DANIEL. Did not some of them stampede?

Mr. OLIVER. No. I read in the paper that a prairie fire had burnt away part of the fence and that the buffalo had escaped and were lost on the prairie. That was exaggerated. There was a fire but it did not burn the fence and the buffalo did not escape.

Mr. HERRON. Do you propose to put any buffalo on any part of the reserve at Kootenay lakes? That would be a very suitable portion of country and the people are anxious to have them there.

Mr. OLIVER. We are not prepared to decide until we have secured all we expect to get from the United States. One of our objects is that they shall form an attraction in the different pleasure resorts we hope to establish from time to time. We have not yet taken up the question of establishing the Kootenay lakes park as a pleasure resort, but we hope to be able to do so before long, and no doubt will be able to add the attraction of a small band of buffalo. Of course it would be useless to establish a herd there before we are prepared to take very good care of them. That park is very close to the boundary, and I would not like to risk many of these animals there unless they were very carefully looked after.

Mr. HERRON. Does the last purchase that was made take in about the last of the herds that were in the United States?

Mr. OLIVER. There may be some small bands in other places, but we are informed that the buffalo we purchased were the only bands of any considerable size in the United States.