

Mr. FOSTER. That is covered by the provision for unforeseen requirements.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). That is clearly the idea that is provided for by contingencies. The hon. gentleman is using the Governor's warrant for purposes that never were contemplated by the law.

Mr. FOSTER. That could not be covered by contingencies, because there was not contingencies enough for the purpose. Contingencies were voted last year on the estimate of the Auditor General for what he thought he would require, taking into account the permanent clerks that we had. In the course of the year one of the permanent clerks resigned, and in his place the services of this clerk were required. The circumstance was unforeseen and it had to be met, and I think it is fully covered by the wording of the statute.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). If there is an appropriation made for the office which the clerk holds for twelve months, and he resigns before the time is up, the balance of his salary, of course, reverts to the Government, and may be used to pay his successor.

Department of Fisheries—Further amount required for contingencies.....\$800

Mr. FLINT. Will the Minister explain this item?

Mr. TUPPER: This \$800 is made up largely of items for the printing of the Herring Report; also, by the cable correspondence in connection, both with Behring Sea and Newfoundland matters, for which we had no vote.

Department of Justice—Further amount required for contingencies.....\$3,000

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. This sum is to make up the usual amount which has been required for contingencies in my department. In previous years the whole sum has been provided out of the general vote for contingencies, which we were allowed to draw upon as long as the whole sum is not exceeded. But last year the practice was adopted of having a specified sum for each department, and, in consequence, I am obliged to ask for this amount.

Department of Indian Affairs—Further amount required for contingencies..\$2,000

Mr. DEWDNEY. There were some unexpected travelling expenses that were not provided for. It is very difficult to control contingent expenses in Indian affairs. The field extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This year contingent expenses have been almost one-half less than they were the year before, but we want \$2,000 to make up extra expenses which we were forced to provide for.

Mr. MULOCK. The Minister of the Interior contends that the contingencies in his department are much less than they formerly were; but I would remind him that the expenses of the Department of Indian Affairs are increasing very rapidly. If the Minister will compare the cost of the administration of Indian affairs now with the cost five years ago I am sure he would be surprised at the tremendous increase of expenditure. The expenditure is many thousand dollars over what was quite sufficient five years ago. In this department the management of Indian affairs in the city of Ottawa is becoming onerous. I am not able to

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell).

say that it is unnecessarily large, for I have not that knowledge of details that would warrant me in making that statement, except by comparison; but taking the expenditure of earlier years as evidence, I think there has been an increase of late years that is not warranted by the circumstances. The Minister refers to travelling expenses. On that point I would say that I have had occasion to look into the allowances made for some of his officers in connection with travelling expenses, and they are on an extremely liberal scale. Inasmuch as part of these expenses is charged to the Indian fund, I think that Parliament is specially bound to be careful and watchful, and see that there is no waste in the slightest degree of the trust fund belonging to the Indians. I had occasion to move for a return upon this subject a short time ago, and I have it in my hand now—an account showing the allowances made by the Minister or his predecessor, in 1885, for the travelling expenses, such as he refers to, of one of his agents, a Mr. Dingman. I would mention to the hon. gentleman that the amounts charged were for sums amounting to three times the actual disbursements made by the officer. I say that the return which I hold in my hand, giving in details moneys paid to one of the hon. gentleman's officers for an investigation made by him, contains items paid by the department, a portion of which I presume were charged to the Indian fund, as the Minister stated in answer to a question put to him during this session, to an officer who conducted the investigation held in the village of Sutton, amounting to three times the actual disbursements made by that officer.

Mr. DEWDNEY. I think the return shows the amount paid for the work. Mr. Dingman had to visit the township of Sutton on three or four occasions, owing to the illness of the Indian agent, the complaint against whom he was investigating. The amount which the inspector received was the regular allowance provided by Order in Council, and which every officer receives when he is away from headquarters on duty. What his expenditure was I have no means of knowing; but I am quite sure he received only that to which he is entitled, because if he had claimed any more the Auditor General would not have paid him. In regard to the general question as regards the expenditure of the department, I admit the expenditure has increased considerably during the last six or eight years. In 1882 the staff at headquarters was composed of the Deputy Minister and 19 clerks; in 1890 it was composed of the Deputy Minister and 35 clerks; but a technical branch has been added since 1882, consisting of two or three surveyors, who are kept constantly busy. The Indian fund has increased by \$331,000; the business of the department has increased over 100 per cent.; the volume of business passing through the accountant's branch, judging by the number of payments made, increased during those years about 400 per cent.; while the correspondence of the department, as shown by the letters, increased 100 per cent. Consequently, hon. members must see that although our staff has increased the business has increased in a far greater ratio.

Mr. MULOCK. I do not think so.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the hon. gentleman permit me to make a suggestion with a view to meet the necessities of public business? Some three or four