

possible requirements. We hear the complaint generally that it is difficult at the present time to get money. Now here is a very substantial item of \$600,000. Would any harm be done to the settlement or the progress or prosperity of the country if that item was stricken off by the minister and the survey parties not sent out till next year?

An hon. MEMBER: None at all.

Mr. GUTHRIE: A \$600,000 saving is a very substantial amount of money, and I am sure the news of such a reduction would be very gratefully received at the present time by my hon. friend the Minister of Finance. And I believe that no harm would be done to the country. We have surveyed lands for a population three or four times what we now have in the western provinces. I believe our surveys cover every reasonable requirement of the mining districts. It may be that some new districts will be developed where surveys will have to be made, but in my judgment if this whole item were left in abeyance and nothing spent this year on further surveys, the burden of taxation on the people would be that much lighter, and no injustice would be done to the settlement of the western country or to the progress and prosperity of the Dominion at large.

Mr. MANION: I do not suppose that any more criticism comes to the Dominion government for unnecessary surveys than comes to the provincial governments. In my own section of Ontario where the lands are in the hands of the provincial authorities, they are continually doing what to my mind looks like unsystematic and unnecessary surveying. I presume exactly the same condition obtains in the Dominion surveys, and it is not perhaps so much a criticism of my hon. friend as of his predecessors. I believe with my hon. friend from South Wellington (Mr. Guthrie) and other hon. members that this is a time when some of this work might be cut down without doing any harm to the country. I know very well that the provincial surveys could be cut down a great deal every year without interfering with the progress of the province, because the authorities carry those surveys on, so far as any one in the neighbourhood can see, without laying out systematically the crown lands of the province. While perhaps it would be asking too much to cut out the item altogether, I believe that the minister himself, judging from the attitude he has taken, would probably half-heartedly agree that a good

chunk could be cut from this estimate without doing any harm to the Northwest, especially as hon. members from there, who naturally know much more of this question than I do, appear to be under the impression that none of this work is necessary.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Under Item 286 full provision is made further down for continuing improvement of districts already settled by surveys and inspections in connection with the administration of the Irrigation Act, etc. So that so far as these things are concerned—and I concur in the desirability of the appropriation for those purposes—they are provided for; but I fail to see any necessity whatever for the enormous grant asked for general survey work for the opening up of new land not already surveyed. I would move, Mr. Chairman:

That the item be cut in two; that is, be reduced by the sum of \$300,000.

Mr. CAMPBELL: I second the motion.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): This is a matter that as far as I am concerned would rather seriously handicap all the arrangements that have been made. Of course, the natural answer to that is: You should not make those arrangements until you have the money. I quite recognize that. But if survey parties are to take the field, preparation must be made some considerable time ahead. I am unable to say definitely that every one of these crews is required for survey work, but if time is given for investigational work, any that are not required can very readily be dispensed with. As a matter of fact, many members of the staff have been in the employ of the Government for a considerable number of years—I was looking it up the other day; some of them since 1905—and to dismiss them summarily would hardly be a fair method of procedure. I am not arguing altogether on behalf of the staff, but rather for the utility of the survey. Now, my hon. friend from Saskatchewan spoke with a good deal of knowledge with respect to what has happened in his territory. He speaks of the territory of The Pas, in all probability the requirements of the survey in The Pas district are brought about by the necessity for survey of mineral claims, and have nothing to do with survey for settlement. As to the complaint of my hon. friend from Alberta, the survey work he speaks of, namely, the classification of the soil for settlement purposes, is not included in this vote, which is for the parties who will