

for the payment of temporary clerks, who have to be paid out of contingencies.

Mr. STAPLES. Did the minister say the pay was stopped when clerks were on sick-leave?

Mr. FISHER. Yes. I have adopted a practice of allowing two months' sick-leave with pay during the year, but the question became so serious that I did not see my way clear to give more than two months' sick-leave in the year.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). How many temporaries were put on?

Mr. FISHER. Twenty-eight, I think.

Mr. TAYLOR (Leeds). Were there not more put on than the number of persons who were absent on sick leave?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, some more; we had other work.

Mr. SPROULE. How much have you paid, or will you have paid, for temporary clerks by the end of the fiscal year?

Mr. FISHER. \$4,590, at the rate of \$500 per year.

Mr. SPROULE. Those who were employed as temporary clerks were paid at the rate of \$500 in proportion to the length of time they had been working?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Arts, Agriculture and Statistics—health of animals—further amount required, \$50,000.

Mr. FISHER. There was \$250,000 in the main estimates, but we found, in consequence of various rather extraordinary expenses, that that was not sufficient to cover the work of the year.

Mr. SPROULE. This will make \$300,000?

Mr. FISHER. Yes: the year before the expenditure was \$325,000. We expected that we were going to be able to get off with \$250,000, but we will get off with less than we spent last year.

Mr. SPROULE. What was the heavy work that necessitated this exceptional expenditure?

Mr. FISHER. There was a very serious outbreak of rabies in western Ontario which required a very heavy expenditure, and the employment of extra officers.

Mr. SPROULE. How much was spent on that?

Mr. FISHER. I do not think I can give that exactly because our officers were doing that and other work as well, but at the same time the work necessitated extra officers. It would be very difficult to divide

Mr. FISHER.

the work. There was also very much more expensive dipping of sheep in consequence of the fact that we agreed that all export sheep to the United States should be dipped under the supervision of our officers. We are also required to see that empty stock cars coming back from the United States and passing certain points are cleansed and disinfected under official supervision.

Mr. SPROULE. I thought that was always done.

Mr. FISHER. Not to the same extent. The railways were required to do it and we had one or two of our inspectors going about spotting to see whether it was done or not. Under this new arrangement we make this inspection much more efficient and thorough.

Mr. SPROULE. We were always told that it was very efficient, but now the minister tells us that this extra cost means that it is done much more efficiently. Heretofore, it must have been done in such a perfunctory way that it was no safeguard to the country notwithstanding the fact that the country was led to believe that it was a safeguard, and that it would be carried out in a proper way. I would like to ask the minister if he could give us any additional information regarding these parties who were employed in connection with the rabies outbreak. Were they regular officers or were there others employed, and if so, what instructions were they acting under and how were they paid?

Mr. FISHER. I could not say positively whether we took on any extra officers or not, but the work involved very considerable extra expense in travel and inspection on the part of permanent officers. We put on that work officers who usually were not travelling because although it was exceptional work we did not wish to put on extra officers. Travelling expenses, therefore, had to be met to a greater degree than is usual in the employment of these officers. We also used the Dominion Police in a good many cases and we had to pay for their services and expenses.

Mr. SPROULE. All these officers are employed all the year around, are they not?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. SPROULE. Well then, that does not mean that they must be paid for doing more work, because they are idle a great deal of the time.

Mr. FISHER. No, they are not idle, but this work being of a temporary character, instead of adding to the permanent officers, we turned to our officers ordinarily engaged in other things. We did not neglect those