

account for services at \$2 a day, \$730, and a bill for extra services during the same period at the rate of 50 cts. an hour, \$337. These extra services amount, in the lowest month to \$10, and in the highest month to \$73, or \$13 more than his wages by the month. He charges for extra services at the rate of \$5 a day, though his regular pay is \$2 a day. If this is a practice permitted to prevail in the Department, I think it is not a proper one.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. These gentlemen are not permanent civil servants. They are scientific men, surveyors, and they get \$2 a day as temporary officers. When reports come in from the surveyors, it is of the utmost importance that they should be examined and approved of at once, and they have to be submitted to competent officers, who check them. These officers have to be well paid.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I desire to make a suggestion. I am sorry to say that some of the surveyors employed by the Department are not equal to the task. Therefore I would suggest that in choosing surveyors, the Department ought to know their antecedents, so as to know what they are able to do. I have been led to believe that the Government have been obliged to pay large sums of money for work that is entirely useless.

Mr. CHARLTON. I find that N. B. Beattie, who contracted for surveying, charges \$5.60 for first class, \$9.10 for second class, \$13.30 for third class. Will the hon. gentleman explain what the different classes are?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Prairie work is first class, prairie and water work is second class, and forest, the most difficult, third class.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Another suggestion I would make is this. All the surveyors ought to be held responsible for the correctness of their surveys. And to this end, each surveyor ought to be supplied with a small label of burnt clay with his name on it, which he ought to be required to deposit under every picket that he plants. They would then be held responsible for their work, and would be all the more careful to lay down their lines.

Mr. BLAKE. Which of the two statements are we to accept as the authoritative statement? There is a discrepancy between them. The first statement said that the outlines of 800 townships were to be run, while the second stated that the number was 1,100.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I read the papers before me that the House might have every information.

Mr. BLAKE. The Secretary's statement contains the observation that there was a weak point in the system of sub-division of contract.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is in the scamping of work, as every contractor is desirable to do his work as cheaply as he can, but, on the other hand, it is economical. Three or four surveyors have slighted their work, and it is only by experience we can know whether they are fit for the work or not; and these surveyors have not been paid.

Mr. BLAKE. I notice the expenditure of \$40,000 or \$50,000 entered for the maintenance of horses. Is that a mode of keeping accounts? or are the horses brought in in bulk and distributed among the contractors? or is the amount given to contractors for the purchase and maintenance of horses?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The horses are bought and distributed among the surveyors. An officer was sent up to buy them, and he did not advertise for the reason that you must get horses accustomed to the country; and if advertised for the prices would be raised. They are used only for day work.

Mr. BLAKE. Out of the vote for Dominion Lands, under an Order in Council, provision has been made for the

Mr. CHARLTON.

payment to the Hon. John O'Connor of certain sums. The papers brought down do not say what these duties are. I think it is on the recommendation of the hon. Minister himself that, out of the appropriation for Dominion Lands, chargeable to Capital, this money is to be paid. A statement of the payments to a comparatively recent date show a payment of \$2,000 a quarter to this gentleman. What are the services for which the payment is made?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Order in Council is down. I will not promise to lay it before the House, but I will lay before the hon. gentleman what Mr. O'Connor has done.

Mr. BLAKE. I know a good deal he has done.

Mr. CHARLTON. I find one W. Beattie, advance on contracts, \$2,500. This same surveyor had a contract the previous year amounting to \$8,702, and was sent away on the main line. He received an advance on the subsequent season's work of \$2,500. I find another, Walter Beattie, allowance May and June, \$2,110; no details received. This looks suspiciously like a defalcation. I would like information.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am informed the practice is to make advances to every surveyor when he goes out. He makes reports of the work as it progresses, and during the season he gets allowances from time to time, to be accounted for in the end. With respect to Mr. Beattie, his services are to the north and west of Edmonton, at a great distance, and his reports have been delayed in consequence; but he is a good officer.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I understand they give bonds as security for the advances.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. My hon. friend is quite right. In all cases they give bonds, secured by good persons, for the advances.

Mr. CHARLTON. Has the Government been so fortunate as to avoid any losses from advances made to surveyors last year?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. They have done their work satisfactorily, except two, who have not fulfilled their contracts, and proceedings are now going on against the securities of these two.

Mr. CHARLTON. I see an item, E. C. Dawson, awarded \$500 damages for withdrawing three and a-half townships from his contract. Why were they withdrawn?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. After this surveyor got his contract the boundary of an Indian reserve was finally settled, and it was found that these townships were included in the reserve.

Mr. CHARLTON. I see Col. Dennis charges \$431.40 for travelling expenses. Is the colonel still connected with the Department?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I presume so.

Mr. CHARLTON. There is a little matter here which is suggestive, a matter of cab hire, which has figured rather prominently in our Public Accounts. A Mr. Deville went to Montreal and purchased a return ticket amounting to \$7, his meals were \$1.50, and his cab hire \$4.75—rather out of proportion.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It depends on the quantity of driving he did, I suppose.

Mr. BLAKE. I do not suppose the hon. Minister could recollect that detail; but with reference to these advances a good many of us have recollections of a gentleman who was formerly a supporter of the hon. gentleman. He met with rather an unflattering testimonial from his constituents as to the expensive character of the votes that hon. gentleman had received from him in times