

diers did not go on Dominion land. If they had done so, we would have required one million and a half for the surveys. But there were several applications for Dominion lands requiring substantial expense for surveys, and this was not the only thing. There were several other things in relation to obligations which had been entered into with provinces in regard to boundary surveys.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): They are still in existence.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I think they are completed.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): No.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Is not the one completed in British Columbia?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): No, there are still some surveys not completed.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not think there is much to do.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): But they are still there.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The international boundary surveys are not in this book. Anyway, there is very little to do in the way of boundary surveys and practically nothing in the way of soldiers settlement and there is really no reason why there should not be as much deduction this year as last year.

The CHAIRMAN: The amendment is carried.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I understood the hon. gentleman withdrew his amendment altogether.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I made the suggestion to my hon. friend (Garland Bow River) and he said he would withdraw it.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Then the amendment that is carried is the one moved by the minister?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. GARDINER: In regard to the question as to where these oil leases are being located, I was pleased to hear the minister say that some very severe regulations were in force. I hope the minister will take into consideration the possibility of eliminating speculation in oil leases. As the hon. gentleman has been living in Edmonton for some years past, he knows very well the great hardships, that are being suffered because of speculation in

[Mr. Meighen.]

oil leases, and I hope he will take that matter into consideration when he is going over this regulation.

Item as amended, agreed to.

Protection of timber in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the N.W.T. and the Railway belt in B.C., Tree culture in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and inspection and management of forest reserves, \$1,000,000.

Mr. STEVENS: I would like to ask the minister what steps are being taken in connection with this work, and, in doing so, I take this opportunity of bringing to his attention, and to the attention of the House, the serious condition developing in Canada with the rapid depletion of our forests reserves—a condition which I think is really becoming alarming. Of course, a part of what I refer to and, which I have in mind, is not wholly under the jurisdiction of the minister, but in the railway belt of British Columbia the conditions to which I refer obtain as well—that is through waste in methods of lumbering, through forest fires and through the depredations of insects of one kind and another. This deforestation or denuding of our lands and forests is, I think, one of the greatest problems facing this Dominion to-day. It is the same thing in the maritime provinces, and the northern and other parts of Quebec, northern Ontario, and it is becoming serious, even in the province of British Columbia, which has been looked upon as having very large areas of primitive timber. I would like to ask the minister if there is in his mind, or in the purview of the Government, for the immediate future, the consideration of reforestation and of more care of existing forests. I hesitate to make these observations, because under these conditions, perhaps one ought to be prepared to substantiate his remarks with data, but I have not the data under my hand at the moment. Perhaps this is a suitable opportunity for the minister to tell the committee just what steps are being taken. I think it might be beneficial.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I presume what the hon. gentleman has in mind is reforestation as well as the care of the existing forests. It does not appear that the Forestry Department have entered upon a very large programme of reforestation, but there is a report here of what they have done to date. It reads:

Reforestation by planting is not being undertaken on a large scale, as in most places natural reproduction is fairly satisfactory, and in any