

pilation of statistics in the various departments. So in this case I would suggest to the minister that a great deal more effective work would be possible, and economies could be effected, if one certain branch—the Topographical Surveys preferably, because it has the more important work to do—were made advisory to those engaged in similar work in the other departments. I would strongly recommend that to the minister. I was disappointed to find from his explanation of the reduction this year of \$70,000 that it was made somewhat at the expense of the work being done. The last thing I had in mind last year in my criticism of the vote was that the service was not satisfactory or desirable. I tried to point out that the western farmers' organizations and the Alberta government were very well pleased with the work and would like to see it completed, especially the land classification. I have seen some of the maps and they are splendid. I did hope that the reduction this year would be explained by the minister as arising out of economies effected by co-ordination, and I am not very well satisfied to find that it is due to the work being curtailed.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): We are not reducing the parties engaged on the land classification work. It is a new venture, having been taken up only within the last two or three years. But the subdivision work in all the western provinces is very much ahead of settlement; generally speaking, to the extent of millions of acres. There is no curtailment of the classification work, but of course we have not increased it.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): In what direction has the work been curtailed, then?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): We are not doing any subdivision work this year, I am informed, so the curtailment is largely in that line. Then the Alberta boundary surveys have been completed. The levelling parties are now entirely under the control of the Geodetic branch.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): That is not so bad. But I do not wish the minister to be under any misapprehension as to my attitude in this matter. I think the department is doing splendid work, but I still think that further economies could be effected by continued pressure on the part of the minister to secure co-ordination. If he would follow my suggestion and place the Topographical branch in charge of the other branches in an advisory capacity, I think economy could be effected and more concentrated and logically followed work would result.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I agree with my hon. friend. I am very much in favour of a number of the services that are scattered around in two or three departments being brought together under one head; I have always been a consistent advocate of this policy. But sometimes my motive is misconstrued and it is suspected that I am reaching out to grab somebody else's department. I say that frankly. But that is not the idea. I want to make it clear to the committee that as far as we have a complete understanding with other departments engaged in somewhat similar services there will be no further overlapping.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Who is the head of this branch?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Mr. F. H. Peters, who was formerly in the Irrigation branch.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Who has taken the place of Dr. Deville?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Mr. J. D. Craig, who was his acting assistant.

Mr. KELLNER: I should like to ask the minister about a timber berth in Alberta which was advertised for sale last year at an upset price, I think, of \$3 an acre. At the sale the berth was bid up to about \$60 an acre and then withdrawn. Was the price too high, or why was the highest bid not accepted?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): This was the subject of a good deal of discussion during the Edmonton provincial by-election.

Mr. KELLNER: Unfortunately I did not attend the meetings, so I did not get the benefit of the discussion.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am very glad indeed to make the matter clear to the hon. gentleman. The sale was advertised in the ordinary way. The berth is located about fifteen miles or more from the railway. During the by-election to which I have referred it was stated that changes had been made in the regulations governing the sale. No changes were made. Mr. Conroy, one of the bidders, was acting on behalf of the Hebridean Colonization Society. Indeed, I think it was at their request that the berth was put up for competition, and a survey showed that there was a considerable amount of sawn timber on the berth as well as a number of ties. These ties were expected to be the main product of the berth. Ties and telegraph poles are, I think, always subject to fixed dues of ten cents for dry and fifteen cents for green. Then, bonus bids are asked