

Mr. ROCHE. According to the Auditor General's Report Dr. Lafferty was allowed \$166.60 for attending a tuberculosis convention at Hamilton. Is he the only physician in the employ of the government who attended that convention and whose expenses were paid by the government?

Mr. OLIVER. I am informed he was the only medical officer in connection with the Indian Department who was present at that convention and whose expenses were paid.

Immigration contingencies in Canadian, British and foreign agencies, and general immigration expenses, \$50,000.

Mr. BRADBURY. What is this vote for?

Mr. OLIVER. The immigration movement is considerably larger during the current year than it was the previous year, and the expenditure we provided for has consequently been overrun. We estimated for British bonuses for the current year \$70,000 and we expect we will need \$20,000 more; for advertising in the United States we estimated \$210,000, and we expect that \$10,000 extra will be needed; for locating settlers in the west we estimated \$65,000, and we believe we will want \$10,000 more; for boundary inspection we estimated \$60,000 and \$10,000 more will be required.

Seed grain advances, further amount required, \$220,000.

Mr. OLIVER. I regret very much to say that our anticipations in regard to the need of seed grain by homesteaders this year have been short of the mark. We knew that there was a crop shortage in some parts of the west last fall, and we made investigation during the winter, so that at the time the extra supplementary estimates were brought before the House about a month ago, we expected that our total requirements would be about \$100,000. We asked for \$50,000 then, and intended to ask for a further \$50,000 in the estimates for next year; but as spring approached and people began to get near the need of grain, applications came in to such a degree that we were compelled to revise our estimates entirely. It is a great disappointment to the department that this is the case; but I feel confident that the House will be willing to face the conditions. We find that our total requirements, instead of being about \$100,000, will run, according to our last estimates, to about \$320,000. We have already been granted \$50,000 and we are asking now for \$220,000 and we shall have to ask parliament for another \$50,000 in the supplementary estimates for the coming year. We require this amount of money now, very urgently, in order to pay for the grain, because the people are already preparing to go on to the land, and if we are to do any good, it is necessary that the grain should be furnished in good time.

Mr. OLIVER.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. Why should there be such a necessity? There were pretty good crops last year.

Mr. OLIVER. I am sorry to say that the crops were not so good all over the country. In one part of the western country the rain fall was very light, and homesteaders did not get seed out of their crop. We are asking for a vote that will supply these people with seed for their crop of 1911, and it is urgently necessary that they should get the seed without delay.

Mr. DANIEL. Is the cost of this seed grain paid back to the department?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes. There are some cases in which it is not, but it is a perfectly businesslike transaction, and in the vast majority of cases the money is paid back in due course with interest. The area principally affected is south of the Canadian Pacific railway line and west of the Sault line, where the season was exceptionally dry last year. The outlook is favourable for a good season this year, and we believe it is in the interest of the country that the people should be given an opportunity to get seed enough for a fair crop this year.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. That is in southern Alberta?

Mr. OLIVER. In south-western Alberta the crop was fairly satisfactory, but it is in south-eastern Alberta, adjoining the Saskatchewan line, and in south-western Saskatchewan where the rainfall last year was the lowest, and a large number of people went in there who did not get their land into such a condition as to stand the dry weather. The combination of a light rainfall and new settlement resulted in a very light crop last year.

Mr. SCHAFFNER. Will the minister give the House some information as to the plan adopted for the distribution of this seed grain and the price of it per bushel?

Mr. OLIVER. I am not able to give my hon. friend the details at the moment as I would wish. Conditions have to be met as they arise. First, there is an inspection of the country by officers of the department to ascertain whether there is a general loss of crop. We do not propose to supply seed grain to every individual loser, but only where there is a general loss. Having ascertained that, we furnish forms of application at the post offices, the Mounted Police posts, the land offices and other official places in the territory affected. These applications, when received, are dealt with. Sufficient seed for 30 acres is the most that we allow to any individual; we think that will give him a fair start for another year. The grain is purchased and handled by our Immigration Branch in