

Miscellaneous, supply of Canadian publications to library of High Commissioner's office, \$1,000.

Mr. GRAHAM: Would "The Fiddlers" be among that contribution to the library?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I am not sure, and it did not seem worth while sending a cable to get the information.

Mr. GRAHAM: Cables are sometimes sent on just as silly errands.

Miscellaneous—Public Archives, \$60,000.

Mr. GRAHAM: I suppose every effort is made by this branch of the service to keep up to the necessities of the present period in regard to collecting everything that might be of future use, interest and information with regard to the war. I imagine there would be a good deal of work, even now, in connection with this branch of the service along these lines, and that what might be obtained that would be of use in the future can hardly be calculated.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: I think that matter is being very thoroughly and sufficiently handled. Some months ago I took the matter up, in the absence of the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden), with Dr. Doughty, the Dominion Archivist, and a plan was elaborated which covered the gathering of necessary information with reference to the war, and all its subsidiary activities and services, both in Canada and on the other side. Dr. Doughty, about a month ago, left for the other side. He has two assistants with him, one of whom, I think, was appointed from the forces there, and the other went with him. They are carrying out the plan in connection with the Records Office in London, and with the other offices which are engaged in services along that line. The idea is to have the whole thing mapped out as one plan, and all the offices operating upon that plan, under the general supervision of Dr. Doughty. The plan was very elaborate and very thorough, and he assured me that it would really do what had probably never been done before. Whilst the thing was going on, and before the war was ended, and consequently before the records had got out of hand, they were all being tabulated and scheduled and kept in proper place, so that they should be available for the future historian.

To provide for the expenses of the Conservation Commission, \$80,000.

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: That is the same as the vote for last year.

Mr. MACDONALD: Would the minister be good enough to give us a short state-

[Sir George Foster.]

ment, showing the results of the expenditure, and what advantage we obtain from it?

Sir GEORGE FOSTER: As my hon. friend knows, the Conservation Commission was constituted with an independent management, and its honorary officers are distributed throughout Canada. Sir Clifford Sifton has been chairman of the commission since its inception. The staff which is doing the work is in Ottawa. I do not know the size of the staff. Mr. White is the controlling personage in it, and they are carrying on explanatory and examination work generally in reference to the resources of the country. One operation which they have been carrying out is the tabulation, in so far as possible, of the timber resources of Canada. They have, up to the present time, I think, thoroughly finished plotting out a number of provinces and are carrying that work through. They placed an annual report upon the Table, which I have no doubt hon. members have carefully and diligently perused, and they issue monographs from time to time on matters concerned with their general work. I have not the direct supervision of it myself, but have just a general idea of the work.

Mr. OLIVER: I desire to draw the attention of the Government to a certain condition existing in Northern Alberta, and, I believe, in Northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba, that, it seems to me, might very well call for examination and consideration by this conservation commission. There is, particularly in Northern Alberta, in the part that is not occupied by settlement—but into which settlement is pressing a magnificent growth of white poplar. The poplar grows very large, clean and straight in that country, and millions of acres are occupied by that growth. In that country the white poplar grows on good soil, which is very suitable for farming. Settlers pressing into that country naturally desire to get the land under cultivation at the earliest possible moment, and in dry years fires accidentally start, and do marvellous work in clearing the land; in other words, destroying this magnificent growth of white poplar. If it were possible to turn that wood to account, say, in the making of paper, it would be a tremendous gain, and a conservation of the resources and wealth of this country of enormous value. The poplar will be destroyed by process of settlement, unless something is done to turn it to account while it is still in its natural condition and suitable for such development.