

5. Has he since that date been performing any services whatever in connection with the government? If so, what?

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Minister of the Interior):

1. On the 8th of July, 1898.

2. In the capacity of Commissioner of Dominion Lands, at a salary of \$3,000 per annum.

3. As Commissioner of Dominion Lands, he had, under instructions from the Minister of the Interior, general charge and supervision of the lands branch of the Interior Department.

4. On the 10th February, 1904.

5. No.

Mr. FOSTER. Does the hon. minister know whether the duties of Mr. Turriff included scrip duties of any kind?

Mr. OLIVER. I am under the impression that the handling of scrip is rather a separate special branch directly under the deputy minister, and not under the Commissioner of Dominion Lands.

Mr. FOSTER. What I would like to know is through whose hands go the applications for the issue of scrip, which and who makes the final signature?

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. N. O. Côté is the officer specially charged with the scrip department, and I think the signature is that of the deputy minister.

SASKATCHEWAN VALLEY LAND COMPANY.

Mr. FOSTER asked:

What official or officials of the department authorized, or made the issue of, the patents to the Saskatchewan Land Company, on evidence of homestead entries instead of actual settlement, as stated in speech of Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior, as recorded in 'Hansard' of 1904, page 7035?

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Minister of the Interior). Patents have been issued to the Saskatchewan Valley Land Company for 149,450.21 acres of land sold to that company with settlement conditions. Such patents were issued on the authority of the Commissioner of Dominion Lands.

The officials of the department are unable to find in the 'Hansard' page mentioned the statement attributed to the Hon. Mr. Sifton.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST.

Mr. OLIVER. Before the Orders of the Day are called, I beg to lay on the table certain information as to population and other matters relating to the constituencies of the new province of Saskatchewan; also certain proposed amendments to the schedule; also certain maps with the suggested amendments marked on them.

Mr. FOSTER.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Are the proposed amendments material?

Mr. OLIVER. They are to this extent, that they give the city of Moosejaw a member and join three constituencies in the northern part of the province into two.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I was about to say that as some alleged misunderstanding, referred to by my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, was put forward as one of the causes for adopting the very extraordinary schedule contained in the Bill for the establishment of the province of Alberta, there need be no excuse of that kind so far as the province of Saskatchewan is concerned, because we are willing to enter into a conference with regard to these schedules. As I understand from my hon. friends who have examined them as they were originally—I do not know what they are now—of even a more extraordinary character than those in the Alberta province.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I am very glad to have the suggestion of my hon. friend, and will immediately confer with my hon. colleague (Mr. Oliver) for the organization of a committee to take the Saskatchewan schedules and dispose of them. I do not agree that they are of a more extraordinary character than those of the province of Alberta. Both adhere very closely to the present condition of things.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. It was a surprise to me to learn that they are of a more extraordinary character than those of Alberta, for I did not suppose that possible.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Then my hon. friend's surprise is equalled by my own.

RICHELIEU BRIDGE AT SOREL.

Hon. H. R. EMMERSON (Minister of Railways and Canals). The hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) a day or two ago asked for copies of the report of the chief engineer and the report to council thereon in connection with the Sorel bridge. He also asked for other papers in connection with the same work. I find in the Auditor General's Report of 1900, page A-65 and following pages, all these papers are published except the report of the chief engineer, and this report I now submit to the House.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST.

House in committee on Bill (No. 69) to establish and provide for the government of the province of Alberta.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I suppose that the Minister of Justice has not yet come to a conclusion about the proposed amendment