

ther they consider that the way to serve the interests of the farmers is to pay \$550 a mile for a woven wire fence. Farmers are building wire fences every day for half that amount. I thought the high price might perhaps be due to the character of the posts, but it turns out from the letter read that the posts are to be wood and not steel. I ask hon. gentlemen who represent farmers' constituencies, like the hon. member for South Grey (Mr. Miller), the hon. member for North Waterloo (Mr. Seagram) and the hon. member for South Perth (Mr. McIntyre), if they in their consciences can approve of such a policy as we have heard of to-day—of a fence being built at a cost of over \$500 a mile, without competition, and without even an appropriation having passed the House. Is that in the line of the Liberal policy which we are accustomed to hear praised in this country as being economical and in the interest of the people? If hon. gentlemen who profess to represent the farming interest of this country can approve of any such policy, and go back to their constituents and justify it, I shall be very much surprised. I would especially like to hear the hon. member for South Grey, who has such an active conscience, and who has exhibited it so often before this House, express his opinion in regard to this matter.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Just one word in answer to my hon. friend with regard to the question of international policy. I may say that the question of policy will come up when the estimates are before us. No contract has been awarded, and the whole issue will be before parliament. But, in anticipation of that discussion, I may say to my hon. friend, if I am not out of order, that it is not proposed to build the fence on the boundary line, but on our own territory, as a precaution against the invasion of United States cattle. The whole correspondence, which will be brought down, will show the reason and the justification of that.

Mr. FOSTER. I would like to suggest that in bringing down the correspondence, the right hon. gentleman see that the original papers are brought down, because we would like to see the notification and the instructions.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Certainly.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the discussion is running a little out of order. There is no motion before the House.

Mr. HENDERSON. Mr. Speaker, with your consent—

Mr. SPEAKER. With the consent of the House.

Mr. HENDERSON. With the consent of the House, I wish to ask the Minister of Finance—because I may have judged his department improperly—whether he can in-

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN.

form the House that this error in the estimates occurred in the printing office or in the department—that is, placing the \$100,000 in the wrong column?

Mr. FIELDING. Since my hon. friend spoke of the matter, I have sent for the original sheet of that portion of the estimates, and it shows that the clerk who prepared the estimates had put the figures in the proper columns. Just how they became transferred does not appear. I do not wish to make the accusation against the printing office without further inquiry; but to all appearances it would seem that they were transferred in the printing office. But even so, that would not relieve our department of responsibility for the error, because my assistants should have noticed it in the proof reading.

Mr. HAGGART. But the additions were made in the Finance Department, and they show that the error occurred there.

Mr. FIELDING. My hon. friend is really mistaken. The hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) knows that the additions are made on the printed sheet, and if the figures were erroneously transferred originally the error would be carried out in the printed sheet.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. The final addition would justify you?

Mr. FIELDING. No, there is a balance struck in the end.

Mr. FOSTER. Will the minister say in what form the estimate came from the Interior Department—in what column were the figures?

Mr. FIELDING. The departments do not always make these comparisons. We usually make them in the Finance Department. But I shall have a further inquiry made.

Mr. HENDERSON. I just wish to point out to the hon. Minister of Finance—

Mr. SPEAKER. Unless there is a motion, the discussion is becoming entirely irregular.

Mr. HENDERSON. I presume I shall have an opportunity of pointing this out again. It will only take a moment.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on.

Mr. HENDERSON. I rather think the hon. minister's answers are misleading, because when you add up the column in which you find this \$100,000 improperly set, you find that you have to include that amount to make the addition which appears at the foot of the column.

Mr. FIELDING. My hon. friend missed what I said, that these additions are made on the printed sheet, and if the figures were carried into the wrong column, they would be carried in the addition.