

Mr. OLIVER. This clothing is supplied every three years, and a larger number happened to come in for their clothing this year than the number that came last year.

Indian schools, \$276,541; decrease, \$9,051.

Mr. ROCHE. If my memory serves me correctly, Dr. Bryce made a rather uncomplimentary report—in fact, rather severely reflecting upon the sanitary arrangements of many of these schools which he inspected a year or so ago. Can the minister give us any information as to whether steps have been taken during the past year to remedy the condition of affairs complained of by Dr. Bryce?

Mr. OLIVER. It is true Dr. Bryce did make a comprehensive report in regard to the health conditions of the Indian schools, and there is no doubt that it was not altogether complimentary. These schools were built many years ago before very much attention was given to this particular trouble, which affects the Indians more especially, and which requires, above all other diseases, the best housing conditions. The buildings were constructed without due regard to what we have so fully in mind today, and of course as time went by they were getting older and less suitable, and it was with a feeling of that fact that we had Dr. Bryce make an examination and report. Since the report has been made there has been some substantial improvement in the conditions, but to put the buildings on a proper footing would require the larger number of them to be absolutely renewed. Therefore, the improvement of the conditions up to the point it is desired to reach is necessarily comparatively slow. Besides, only part of the buildings were constructed by the Indian Department or by the government. The capital expenditure upon a very considerable number of the schools was made by the different missionary societies, but latterly the department has been from time to time assisting these societies to improve the sanitary conditions of the buildings and generally to bring them up to the modern standard.

Mr. MAGRATH. Who are the inspectors of Indian schools? Is there more than one?

Mr. OLIVER. The inspectors of agencies inspect the schools.

Indian surveys, \$15,000; increase, \$4,000.

Mr. ROCHE. Where have the surveys been principally carried out during the past year?

Mr. OLIVER. That part of the survey work was done on St. Peter's reserve, on the Red river below Winnipeg. We secured a surrender of the reserve, and it was necessary to make a new survey of it in order to provide for selling the land. Swan Lake, on which we secured a partial surrender,

Mr. SPROULE.

was surveyed, and I believe the reserve Sturgeon Lake.

Mr. ROCHE. What is the necessity for the \$4,000 increase?

Mr. OLIVER. Because we have secured several surrenders of reservations, and require to subdivide them in order to sell.

Mr. MAGRATH. Are those surveys performed by contract or day work?

Mr. OLIVER. The surveys are done by two salaried surveyors of the department, Mr. Reid and Mr. McLean.

Grist and sawmill, \$637.

Mr. LAKE. Is the department thinking of giving up the maintenance of these grist and sawmills?

Mr. OLIVER. Where the conditions have changed, or where settlement has changed the conditions so that it is not necessary to keep up saw or grist mills, I suppose we would dispense with them; but where conditions remain as they were when the mill was established, we intend to maintain it.

Mr. SPROULE. How many grist and saw mills have you running now?

Mr. OLIVER. About six. They are portable mills.

General expenses, \$222,324.

Mr. ROCHE. I would like to ask the minister if there is anything in the press report of a week or so ago about Mr. J. J. McKenna, Assistant Commissioner, being about to receive another appointment, and to be succeeded by Mr. S. Jackson, the ex-member for Selkirk.

Mr. OLIVER. In regard to that, I may say that for some time it has seemed to the department that the necessity for the Commissioner's office in Winnipeg, at least the necessity which existed in former years, had practically come to an end, and that the staff now employed in the commissioner's office might be employed with some advantage in other parts of the department's work. It is proposed that the office be dispensed with, abolished, and to employ the members of the staff there in other branches of the department.

Mr. ROCHE. Without making any addition?

Mr. OLIVER. There will be no office to make additions to.

Mr. ROCHE. On page I—30 of the Auditor General's Report there is an item:

Ben Rush, Melfort: amount charged on account of increase in cost of material between the time of submitting and awarding contract, \$200.50.

This is part of an item of \$2,839. It struck me as peculiar that the contractor should be allowed \$230 for increase in the