

Mr. DAWSON. With respect to annuities under the Robison Treaty, I desire to enquire whether any progress has been made towards arriving at a settlement with the Ontario Government. A demand was made on that Government for arrears due the Indians under the Robison Treaty, the sum now amounting to \$300,000. My opinion is that the Dominion Government should fund the amount, in the meantime, and trust to obtaining it from the Ontario Government in the future.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think the Indians have been very badly treated under this Treaty. They have not received the money which was due them. Considerable progress has, however, been made towards a settlement with the Ontario Government. I understand from the Minister of Finance, that he believes that in the course of this spring there will be an adjustment—it has been approaching for some time—between the Quebec and Ontario Governments, in regard to their respective liabilities. The moment that is arrived at, the fund belonging to the Indians will, of course, be adjusted, and they will be paid over the amount from some source or other. Looking at the matter from one point of view, the Indians have not suffered morally from this failure, as regards payments due them. However, that is no reason why they should not receive their money.

Mr. MILLS. The point in dispute is this: The Dominion Government claim from the Ontario Government the amount of money which the Indians were entitled to receive for the surrender of their claims under this Treaty. The Ontario Government oppose it on two grounds. First, that this is not a charge against the Provincial Government but against the Dominion Government, which, in taking over all the assets of the two Provinces—Ontario and Quebec—at the time of Confederation, took over this liability, and that therefore it is a charge against the Government of Canada, and not against a particular Province. Second, that if the lands were liable, as the Dominion Government claim the greater portion as lying west of the meridian drawn due north from the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi, no claim can be made against the Ontario Government, when the lands, it is claimed, do not belong to them.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. They have made some advances.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Some years ago the vote was \$14,000. Will it increase or remain stationary?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Treaty allowance to the Indians is \$4 per head. For many years they have been paid only \$1 per head; for some years they have been paid \$4. They ask payment of arrears between the \$1 and the \$4 per head—that is their complaint.

NOVA SCOTIA.	
166. For Indians of Nova Scotia generally.....	\$5,032 56
NEW BRUNSWICK.	
167. For Indians of New Brunswick generally...	\$4,890 00
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.	
168. For Indians of Prince Edward Island generally.....	\$2,000 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I say that, in a good many cases the money appears to go to missionaries which, I dare say, is a mode in which the Indians may get as much benefit as any other way, but still if the money was intended for maintenance and assistance of destitute Indians, it would not be strictly in accord with the vote.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The clergymen in New Brunswick generally act as missionaries and, to a certain extent, as agents. Their salaries altogether amount to \$1,630.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The point is, that the most of this small grant appears to go as salaries to white-men, rather than as food or grain given to the Indians.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am afraid that is so. These officers have been there for a long time, and there is a general impression that these clergymen who, by the way, receive small sums, are an excellent moral police.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

169 { For Indians of British Columbia generally...\$25,650 00	
{ Surveys	7,700 00
{ Reserve Commission	11,055 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The salaries of white men apparently constitute a large portion of this expenditure. I notice by last year's detail that there were several items which struck me as scarcely being chargeable to expenses for Indians, among them being an address presented to the Marquis of Lorne and performances of various kinds given in his honour. I think these amounts might more properly have been charged to the vote for the entertainment of His Excellency.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That is so.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). \$1,900 for schools seems a small amount?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think the sum is insufficient. I think, also, that owing to the different character of the Indians in British Columbia from those on the east side of the Rocky Mountains, we will be able to have fewer agents and more schools. The Indians of British Columbia are a different race; it is said that they have a considerable admixture of Mongol blood, and they are sturdier, stronger, and hardier men, more like white men than those on the east side of the Rockies, who are wild and untamed—more like deer than oxen. It is reported also that the chief cry of the Indians to Lord Lorne was that they wanted more schools. That is a subject to which I hope to address myself this summer.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria). What the right hon. gentleman has stated is perfectly correct. There is a great amount of Mongol blood in the native Indians of Vancouver Island, at all events. They are strong and hardy men, very useful on board steamboats. I have known them to pick up six 50 lb. sacks and run along with them and put them on board ships. I may say that Dr. Tolmie, who has been in British Columbia for many years in connection with the Hudson Bay Company, has taken a great interest in Indian matters, and he has suggested to me that somebody should be appointed to teach those Indians farming, and arrange farming matters for them. I hope the Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs will give his attention to the matter.

Mr. GORDON. I can bear testimony as to the good character of the Indians of British Columbia generally. I think they are advancing as rapidly as could be expected, especially at one point on the coast. A gentleman went there twenty years ago, when the Indians were comparatively savage. He taught them reading, writing and arithmetic, so that they were able to correspond with their friends. He also got workmen to teach them the mechanical arts. They have erected a saw mill, which they are running; they have sash and door factories; and two years ago Mr. Duncan engaged a Paisley weaver from the district of Cowichan for six months, and at the end of that time this gentleman showed some very fine specimens of shawls which were woven by the Indians. In fact, the Indians are in advance of the whites in that industry. I regret very much that circumstances have occurred there recently which are calculated, to some extent, to destroy the usefulness of that gentleman's labours—a dispute having arisen between him and the church. With the merits of the case I am not familiar; but to the efforts of Mr. Duncan, in bringing these Indians from a state of complete savagery to such a condition that they are able to correspond with their friends, and that they labour and lead lives of sobriety,