

and the medicines \$492. If the hon. gentleman were to get rid of physic, if he were to throw that to the dogs, and were to discharge his officials, the public treasury would be relieved of more than \$70,000 in British Columbia alone. I might refer to the other agencies. In the Kamloops agency, the salaries, travelling and office expenses amount to \$2,165, the charges for destitute Indians are \$13.35, for seed grain and implements \$217.39, and for medicines \$1,230.33. If you were to leave out the medicines, the Indians receive about one-tenth of the amount received by the officials.

[At one o'clock the committee adjourned, and at three o'clock resumed.]

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I had one more agency to refer to in British Columbia when you left the Chair at one o'clock, and that is the Okanagan agency. The salary there is \$400, and is paid to Mr. McKay, who is also the agent at Kamloops; so that he receives \$2,200 as salary for his services at these two agencies. The sum paid there for the relief of destitute Indians was \$12.37; for seed grain and implements, \$38.83; medicine, \$135.19; so that even there the amount received by the agent was three times as great as the amount distributed amongst the Indians for the various purposes. Now, there are several industrial schools in British Columbia; I do not propose to find any fault with the expenditure for that purpose. I do not know how far these schools are efficient, or how much the attendance is. I find the industrial school at Metlakahtla costs \$5,711; at Kamloops, \$5,302; at Kuper, \$5,237; at Kootenay, \$7,000; and at Cocqua Leetza Home, \$2,300. They all may be necessary; what the attendance is I cannot, at this moment, say; but, if the schools are efficient, I have no fault to find with that expenditure. I now wish to call the attention of the committee for a moment to the expenditure on surveys. I pointed out to the committee that about 1875 a dispute arose between the Government of British Columbia and the Department of Indian Affairs here with regard to the expenditure on the Indian reserves that should be set apart to the Indians under the term of union between British Columbia and Canada. In order to set apart what was regarded as adequate and fair reserves in the interest of the Indians, showing that no Indian title was recognized in the soil, two commissioners were appointed, one by each Government, and a third was agreed upon, and they proceeded to set apart reservations in various parts of British Columbia. After two or three years it was agreed that the party who was acting as umpire in the case should be sole commissioner for this purpose. At a still later period, some time about 1880 or 1881, a surveying party was established in which Mr. O'Reilly was named as chief commissioner. Four surveyors were named, I think, at \$1,800 each, whose names are mentioned here in the report of the Minister of the Interior, and they have continued in existence ever since. Now, at page 43 of Part II, will be found an expenditure under Mr. Green for Indian surveys, mentioned on the top of the page as \$401. So far as one can judge, about ten days were occupied by that party. Then there was an expenditure under Mr. Skinner, another surveyor, who received nine months' salary, \$1,350. It will be seen by the wages of the axemen and other expenses that probably fifteen days were occupied by that party. Then there is an expenditure under Mr. Devereux, an-

other surveyor, who received eleven months' salary, \$1,669.35. That party seems to have been occupied about four months, or four and a half. Then there is an expenditure under Mr. Fletcher, who received two months' salary, \$300, and it will be seen from the wages of the chainmen, axemen and others, that the whole expenditure of this survey was \$1,821, and perhaps a month and a half or two months were taken in that survey. Then the Indian commission, as I have mentioned, at a cost of \$6,326, seems to have devoted about five days to surveying operations. There is the salary of Mr. O'Reilly, \$3,500; the salary of a surveyor, \$1,800; wages of a chainman, \$10. I do not know whether he was paid \$2 or \$3 a day; certainly he was not paid less than \$2, and that would imply five days' service. Then there is the wages of the various axemen, board allowance, provisions, packing, transportation, and so on, making a total cost of \$6,326. Well, probably part of the expense was salary of the commissioner, the surveyor for the year, and the cost of transportation. Whether the survey was made at a great distance from Victoria, I cannot say, but it is pretty clear, from the wages to the parties of chainmen, that not more than five days could have been occupied in the surveys. Now, I bring these matters under the attention of the committee, and I specially direct the attention of the Minister of Finance and the Minister of the Interior to these charges. I know that there could be an enormous saving in this department. I am satisfied that a hundred thousand dollars, as I have already said, could be saved in salaries alone without in the smallest degree interfering with the efficiency of the department; on the contrary, I believe that efficiency would be increased if the organization in the outlying districts were simplified, and responsibility increased by being fixed upon some definite party, and a small allowance in the way of salary for payment of actual services given. It seems to me preposterous, where a man is occupied for two or three days in the year visiting the Indian reserves, looking after some Indian matters, that he should be paid a salary of \$1,500 a year when he has really nothing to do. I make no objection to the department having in its mind some person to whom it may refer to undertake the responsibilities for the two or three days, or a week, that his services may be required; but I see the greatest objection to such a man being a permanent officer of the department with a fixed annual salary, when he can have no services to perform on behalf of the public for the moneys which he receives. I am not further going to trespass upon the indulgence of the committee; I know that the committee is becoming impatient, and that hon. gentlemen are anxious to attend to their own private affairs. But I notify the Minister of the Interior that if we meet again next session I will ask for a very full consideration, a minute consideration of these various branches of the public service under his control, which I am sure may be greatly reformed in the way of diminishing the expense without in the slightest degree impairing the efficiency, and this especially in the case of British Columbia and of the North-West Territories.

Mr. DEWDNEY. I am always glad to listen to the remarks of the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills), especially when they are made in connec-