

few Indian ponies and a buckboard, and in the case of these agents these things are supplied. Out of this sum the Commissioner of Indian Affairs got nearly \$2,000. In addition to that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs gets his camp outfit, his tent, his horses and harness, and everything that human skill and human ingenuity can devise as necessary for travelling on the prairie; and yet he draws nearly \$2,000 for travelling expenses in one year. I say again, it is a gross injustice to the Indians that these sums, voted by Parliament to clothe and feed the Indians, should be wasted and frittered away. It is a still greater injustice that the men placed over the Indians should supplement their handsome salaries by all these casual advantages stolen out of the funds voted by Parliament to maintain and support the Indians. Let us see how much further this system is acted on to the injury of the Indian. The same scandalous expenditure is not for one year only; it continues from year to year. In the Sessional Papers of 1884, I find that the Indian account is charged with \$2,836 for travelling expenses. By the same Sessional Papers, I find that I. G. Baker and others obtained \$1,417 for commission on advances, which is charged to the Indian account. I find further, by the Sessional Papers of 1884, that the number of Indians in Treaty No. 6, in the year 1883 amounted to 6,639, and the Indian account is charged with having paid that number of Indians. I find by the Sessional Papers of the following year that the Indians in Treaty No. 6 were then said to number 8,157. In 1883 the Indian account is charged with a payment to 6,639 Indians, including chiefs and headmen. In the following year the Indian accounts is charged with a payment to 8,157 Indians, or an increase of 1,518 Indians, although it is clear that instead of there being an increase in that band, there was a decrease, and the concurrent testimony of all who know anything about it is that there was a decrease. There is evidently something wrong here which requires investigation, but which never was investigated. I find in the Sessional Papers of 1885 that all the items making up the sum of \$17,670 are entered twice, I do not know whether they have been paid twice; all I know is that they are entered twice in the blue-books submitted to Parliament. Some of the items are worthy of the consideration of Parliament and the people of this country. I find that the Indian account of last year is charged with \$10 paid to the South-West Stock Association as Mr. McHugh's membership fee. Will any one tell me why the Indian account should be charged with the cost of making Mr. McHugh a member of the South-West Stock Association? I find that Mr. P. G. Hallam was paid \$5 for taking an affidavit. The fee in the Province of Ontario is only 25 cents. I find that \$85 is charged for taking a threshing machine to Poundmaker's reserve, which is about half the value of the machine. It should not have cost more than \$12 or \$15. I find that P. J. Paterson is paid \$5 for 50 pounds of flour. Everybody knows that in the markets of the North-West flour can be got for \$5 a barrel. I find that the Indians are charged with \$5,676 as one-third of the cost of the mail service. I ask why the Indian account should be charged with that? The mail service is necessary for the convenience of the white settlers, and ought to be charged to the ordinary fund, and not to the Indian account. It looks to me, on examining this account, as if the object of the Government was simply to spend the Indian funds in the interests of their friends. Last year the expenditure on Indian account was \$1,109,604. Mr. Dewdney, in his report, says it cost \$454,000 to feed and clothe the Indians. Will the hon. Minister explain to the House and the country what became of the other \$645,000? If not, I will give some explanation. We paid Commissioner Dewdney a salary of \$3,200, and if he were a good man, I would not object to that charge. We paid an army of officials of

all kinds over \$90,000. We paid the Tory press from the Ottawa *Citizen* down to the Montreal *Gazette*, \$8,028, which is charged to the Indian account. We paid for agricultural implements and tools in three years, half of which the Indians never received, \$92,337. The Indian account is charged with sums paid to Indians who were not in the band; it is charged with sums paid to Indians who never were in the band; it is charged with sums paid to Indians after they were dead and before they were born, as the following statement made by Mr. McColl in his report shows:

"One of the councillors having two wives is represented on the May sheet as receiving annuity in 1881, for a family of 11 including 2 infant children, whereas at the date of payment, only one of these children was born."

We pay for travelling expenses of the employees of the Government in the North-West in many cases more than their salaries amount to, and that in a country where all a man requires for travelling is an Indian pony and a buckboard. Some of the items that make up the accounts are curious, and deserve the consideration of Parliament. In one of the accounts I find that we paid J. Creighton for a silk handkerchief, 90 cents. Why should the Indian account be charged with the price of a silk handkerchief? If the Indians are starving to death, they do not require silk handkerchiefs. We paid Wm Williams for repairing boots, \$7.75. We paid Mr. Laurie for football, \$5. If they want to play football, let them buy their own football, and not charge the Indian account with it. We paid for a magic lantern, \$81.15. We paid Louisier & Morin, for superintending Indians' fishing, \$135.76. Will any man tell me why we should pay this sum for this service? I think the Indians know more about fishing than the Government or their officials do. The account was also charged last year with a payment of \$453 for venetian blinds for the Regina Office. A more scandalous charge was never made than that. \$153 for venetian blinds for a little office in Regina! I venture to say that there is not a gentleman's house in Ottawa where the venetian blinds cost \$453. Let me refer to some other items that bear on their face indications of fraud on the Indian. Take the Indians under Treaty No. 4. They are charged with seventy-one yoke of oxen in three years. The Indians under Treaty No. 6 are charged, in 1883, with forty-five yoke of oxen; in 1884, forty-two; and in 1885, forty-two, or 130 yoke of oxen in three years. Now, Mr. Speaker, I ask you to tell me why the Indian account should be charged in three years with 130 yoke of oxen under this treaty, although this band of Indians had not, so far I am able to judge, a thousand acres under cultivation? It is nothing less than a wilful waste of money. These 130 yoke of oxen cost the people of Canada \$26,470; and many of the oxen were aged, crippled and unfit for work of any kind when delivered, so that in a year or so many of them died from old age, and such of them as did not die had to be sold or killed, as they were unfit for work. Francis Ogiltree, Indian agent, writing of the oxen supplied the Swan Lake band, says:

"The two oxen owned by this band are of very little use, as one of them is blind and the other one is very old."

A. Mackay, Indian Agent, speaking of the Berens River Band says:

"There are only one ox and one cow alive out of the seven supplied by the Department."

E. McColl, Inspector of Agencies, speaking of the Long Plain band, says:

"As the oxen are useless, one blind and one very old, they want the agent to be allowed to exchange them for others."

Thus two agents report the same thing. The truth of the matter is that the oxen, for which we paid this enormous