

remedies to all patients attended on trip; office consultations, \$2 to include supply of ordinary remedies; surgical operations, as detailed in the schedule, etc.

In that answer there is not one word about a limit of any kind or description.

Mr. DONNELLY: It seems utterly ridiculous to limit the amount paid to a doctor each month. Is the government going to prevent the Indians from being sick or if they are sick will the government let them die without calling in a doctor? I did some work for the Indians two years ago, and I had some experience in this practice of cutting down fees. The department did not wish to spend too much. I have been called out to see Indians suffering from pneumonia, and then the Indian agent would tell the person in charge of the patient when I could be called in again. The result was that probably I would never hear from them again, or would be called to write out a death certificate. If the Indians are going to be sick they have to send for a doctor; the government or nobody else can say when they are going to be sick, how often they are going to be sick or how often they may need a doctor.

Mr. VENIOT: Oh, this government can.

Mr. DONNELLY: Oh, can they? The whole thing seems ridiculous.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Can the minister tell me why the services of Doctor J. B. Cloutier of the Roseau River Indian reserve were dispensed with? Was it for the reason expressed by the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough, namely that when a Conservative government takes office all the Grits are thrown out?

Mr. MURPHY: I did not hear the hon. member's question.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Why in the month of January 1931 were the services of Doctor J. B. Cloutier dispensed with?

Mr. MURPHY: I am informed Doctor Cloutier was paid on the call system.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I believe that is correct.

Mr. MURPHY: As I said a minute ago, when I received a recommendation from a colleague or from some one in whom I had confidence that the services should be performed by a certain doctor or individual, I acted on that recommendation. While I have not the particulars before me, I assume that was what was done in reference to Doctor Cloutier.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Will the minister tell me that one of his colleagues in the house from the province of Manitoba has told him that another doctor should replace Doctor Cloutier? Would he show me any correspondence to that effect from one of his colleagues in the government, or from one of the back benchers, in which class the Minister of Agriculture has qualified himself? Did such a man give him a letter, or ask him to dismiss Doctor Cloutier?

Mr. MURPHY: I have stated as clearly as my English would allow that I acted on the recommendation of a colleague, or one in whose judgment I had confidence. I have no letter from a colleague or a member of this house before me to-night in regard to that particular individual. I have confidence, however, in the judgment of a great many men who are not members of this house, and are not my colleagues.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I think the minister would have fewer questions to answer if he did not take the recommendations of his friends who are not in the house, who have no first hand knowledge, and who probably make accusations which cannot be proven. Is it correct that the Indian agent when buying supplies or necessities for the Indians asks different people to give figures, or written tenders?

Mr. MURPHY: Generally speaking that is correct, but in isolated sections there may be only one source of supply.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I am not speaking of isolated sections. It seems that certain merchants in certain towns are on preferred lists. The Indian agents ask those people to tender or to give a figure on supplies needed by the Indians. Can the minister inform me, so I may pass the information on to the merchants in my district, what procedure a man has to take to be on the preferred list?

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I should like to have an answer.

Mr. MURPHY: Yes. The agent buys supplies for the Indians in isolated communities from those who can supply or are close at hand. Certain of the larger supplies, such as bacon, tea and so on, are bought in wholesale quantities. With regard to some particular friends of his who desired to supply goods to the Indians, possibly my hon. friend had better inform them that when he can make representations such as he desires no doubt they will be carried out.