

they passed the Act, especially after full explanation of the services and the duties, making the new organization of which he complains. He must complain of Parliament for not being as well satisfied as he is himself, that two clerks could do the work. It would require the Herculean powers of labour of the hon. gentleman to do it. In addition to the Force being increased to 200, 300, and then to 500 men, there are stations to be attended, the duties are immensely increased, the necessary supervision is immensely increased since the hon. gentleman was personally acquainted with the affairs of that body. I think the hon. gentleman knows personally the gentleman who now holds the office of Comptroller, and he will admit that he is a very active and zealous officer. I place every confidence in his statement, and he finds and feels that there is not a man too much employed for the efficiency of the service.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The question would arise in this, as in some other matters, whether all this work had not better be done from Winnipeg in place of being done from Ottawa. It appears to me that, as it is, the Comptroller, who is equivalent to a Deputy-Head, to do his work properly, has to spend half, or perhaps two thirds of his time in the North-West.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Oh, no.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Has he not?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. He makes two trips in the year. It takes not many weeks now.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Of course, it does not take anything like the time to reach the principal stations of these people, but, as he has been transferring so much of the other work of the Department over to Winnipeg, it might very well be considered whether the civil head of the Mounted Police Branch should not be there too. It is a question of policy. I merely mention it. I cannot pretend to say whether it would be better or not.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That is quite worthy of consideration.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What I have seen would incline me to think it would be better.

Mr. MACKENZIE. The hon. the First Minister has several times to-day thrown the blame upon Parliament for legislation he himself has initiated, and he thinks he shakes off all responsibility by saying, Parliament did so and so.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Oh, no; I do not.

Mr. MACKENZIE. It appears to me that he did. Of course he is responsible, as Minister, for what he submits to Parliament.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I accept the responsibility. I do not at all throw any blame on Parliament; on the contrary, I praise them for having their minds open to the arguments used at the time, and being satisfied with the arguments and reasons given, and with the policy of the Government, and crystallizing it into a Statute.

Mr. MILLS. The hon. gentleman had not always such confidence in Parliament. If I remember, not many years ago, the hon. gentleman was not willing to accept the judgment of Parliament as a correct judgment. On the contrary, the hon. gentleman said that the Government at that time ruled by a mechanical majority. He denied that those who supported the Administration had exercised their judgment, or had reasoned upon public questions. He said they followed the Government blindly, and placed the most implicit confidence in whatever the First Minister proposed. It seems to me that what Parliament did on that occasion, in the estimation of the hon. gentleman, Parliament may do on the present occasion, in the estimation of gentlemen on this side of the House.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Exactly.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

Mr. MILLS. And I am inclined to think that the hon. gentleman, if he were on this side of the House, would not be willing to accept an Act of Parliament as conclusive evidence that what the Minister proposed was right. When we are called upon to consider questions of this sort, it seems to me that we ought to consider them upon their merits. When the hon. gentleman asks for a vote of \$7,200 for the administration of a Department having the control of 500 police, it is always in order for this House—in fact, it is the duty of the House—to consider the question whether that amount is actually required or not. Now, in my estimation, it is not required. In my opinion, the amount is unnecessarily large. I believe that the affairs of that particular branch could be administered for half this sum, and, holding that opinion, I have thought proper to express it here, and I have given my reasons. I have shown that when the country was more inaccessible, when the cost of that administration must have been greater than it is at the present time, 300 policemen, at all events, were taken in charge by a Department having two clerks, at a salary of \$2,700.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I will not say that I agree with the hon. gentleman; I am quite satisfied with the action of Parliament when it agrees with me; he is not satisfied with the action of Parliament unless it agrees with him; and if I were over there and he were here, I might attack the Administration of the Government even if it were fortified by an Act of Parliament; but I quoted the Act of Parliament to show that this was sanctioned by Parliament, and any Government must feel strengthened by having the sanction of the House of Commons, even if that House of Commons be composed of a majority generally supporting the Ministry,

9. The Department of Indian Affairs. \$32,310 00

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The present salaries are \$26,350; statutory increase, \$860; proposed promotions from one class to another, \$1,100; proposed appointments, \$4,000, in consequence of the increase of the Department.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. There is no increase, to do the hon. gentleman justice, of \$4,000. There is a total increase of \$1,023, but not an increase of \$4,000. There may be variations to that extent, but that is the total increase.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There is a Deputy-Head, \$3,200, and \$50 increase to a Chief Clerk. There is an additional second-class clerk at \$1,100, and a promotion from the third-class. He passed his examination. There is a reduction of two in the third-class clerks. I find it necessary to have an officer specially detailed for the Indian Affairs. Mr. White, the Comptroller, acted for me, but his work is so great that he had to give it up.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Do I understand the First Minister has a Private Secretary in his capacity as President of the Council and also as Superintendent of Indian Affairs?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes; but I do not intend just now to employ a private secretary at that salary. I must have some one specially engaged for that work. I have two private secretaries, Mr. White, Comptroller, and Mr. Joseph Pope. Mr. White can no longer attend to the work, and I must have somebody else to assist me. My hon. friend for East York knows that the political correspondence of the Head of the Government requires a Private Secretary for that branch alone. Then I want an officer to attend to the correspondence, which is sometimes only semi-official, in the Indian Department.

Mr. MILLS. Whatever the hon. gentleman may say to explain the expenditure in the Land Department he cannot put forward the same explanation in respect to the Indian