

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am speaking of the item of \$15,900, which last year was \$58,180. There is a decrease of \$42,280 over last year's appropriation there, and that comes out of the large appropriation for repairs to roads, bridges and drainage. The other items are the same as last year.

Sir HENRY DRAYTON: What are they?

Mr. STEVENS: The minister is not quite correct in stating that the other items are the same. There is an increase of \$15,000 for relief, and while speaking on this let me draw his attention to this most extraordinary coincidence right through. The increased relief in Nova Scotia of \$14,000 more than doubles the vote; the relief in Ontario and Quebec represents an increase of \$15,000; and in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta the increase for supplies and so on is \$18,000, and for hospitals, medical attendance, etc., \$16,000.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The increased relief in Ontario is made up by a corresponding reduction in the general vote. It is a changing of the allocation.

Mr. STEVENS: As far as Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan are concerned, that is not so.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The increase of \$18,962 in Manitoba and Saskatchewan is accounted for by the additional supplies provided to meet treaty obligations with the Indians of the Great Slave and Mackenzie river district numbering 3,000 souls. It is the first time we have issued relief to these Indians who have come in under treaty obligations made by Mr. Conroy some two years ago.

Mr. STEVENS: Why the increase in Ontario?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There is a decrease of \$15,000 in the general vote. It is simply a transfer for book-keeping purposes taken from the general vote and applied to Ontario for relief purposes.

Mr. STEVENS: How much was spent last year?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): These transfers are confusing and give rise to difficulty in making explanations, but I am told by the accountant that although the \$15,000 has not been voted direct for relief purposes it has been paid out of this fund for years. It appears now directly for relief purposes for Ontario and Quebec rather than in the general item number 278.

Mr. FORKE: Mr. Chairman, in referring to the Indians of Manitoba I do not suppose I am likely to say anything that the hon. minister does not already know, but I think it well to make a statement as to their condition. I live near a reserve, and some twenty miles distant, near Brandon, we have a much larger reserve. The condition of the Indians on these reserves is deplorable; there is no denying that fact. While I was at home at Easter I received a deputation of eight or ten Indians who told me, in a dignified and intelligent manner, the story of the conditions that exist upon the reserves. We hear a great deal about the hard times among the farmers in western Canada, men who have long been acquainted with that sort of work, who come down from generations of farmers, yet are hardly able to make a living. I found Indians on the reserve without stock, without implements, without anything with which they could make a living; yet they have been existing. It seems to me that we are slowly starving these people to death. It is all very well to talk about the Indian and his characteristics, his lack of ability to take care of himself under modern conditions, but that is perhaps a rather hard-hearted way of looking at it. We have come into the country and taken the place of these Indians, people who have been used to a nomadic life, who from generation to generation have lived the life of the hunter, knowing nothing of modern conditions of agriculture. They are put in a reserve and told to make their living.

I remember a statement made to me by the late Glen Campbell, at one time a member of this House. He was commissioner of Indian police with jurisdiction over the Indians from the Great Lakes to the foot of the Rockies. I once had the pleasure of going with him over the Sarcee Indian reserve at Calgary, a splendid reserve, with good grazing facilities, capable of taking care of a great many cattle and stock of all kinds. I remember while admiring the reserve and the desirable place the Indians had there that he made the statement to me that were it not for the red tape at Ottawa he could make all these Indians rich. I wonder if there was any truth in that statement? I do not know, but that was what he said. Perhaps the Indians are ruled a little too much by red tape, without the application of any great knowledge of the conditions that prevail on the reserves. I am satisfied that it is no use to supply the Indians—the ones I know, anyway—with stock and seed and implements and then expect them to take care of their stock and make a good living for themselves. As long as these