

\$5 for every other member of the tribe. They were to be supplied with other articles in the same manner as the Indians under the other treaties.

HON. MR. O'DONOHUE—How much tobacco constitutes a present—how many pounds?

HON. MR. READ—I have not the information as regards the present of tobacco at all. I have read over all the reports of the treaties and the public accounts, and I do not see anything that will give me that information.

Now, what are we doing? Are we carrying out our agreements with the Indians? From the Public Accounts, and from all the information I can get, we are doing so to a much greater extent than ever was expected—certainly to a greater extent than the terms of the treaties demand. At the present time, and for some years, we have been spending about a million dollars annually. It was not quite so much five or six years ago, and I think it was a little more than a million, a year or so ago. At all events, it is now \$1,025,000. How has that money been expended? The Indians are distributed as follows:—

| Treaty No | Chiefs. | Headmen. | Indians. |
|-----------|---------|----------|----------|
| 1         | 9       | 33       | 3,323    |
| 2         | 6       | 25       | 864      |
| 3         | 29      | 83       | 2,493    |
| 4         | 35      | 96       | 5,614    |
| 5         | 10      | 27       | 3,118    |
| 6         | 39      | 135      | 7,983    |
| 7         | 9       | 46       | 6,616    |
|           | 137     | 448      | 30,011   |

In all 30,011 that received \$5 per head; 448 headmen, who received \$15 each; and 137 chiefs, who received \$25 each per annum. Each chief every three years had a suit of clothes given him. I do not know whether the headmen get clothing in the same way.

The industrial schools, I may say, are for the instruction of Indian boys, and others who wish to learn trades, such as blacksmithing, shoemaking, carpentering, &c., which will enable them to earn their living. Many of the articles which the Indians receive are specified in the treaties, such as oxen and cows, and our agreements

were made to give them more where ranching could be carried on, and less stock in parts of the country not so well suited for cattle raising; but each band received a yoke of oxen, a bull and three or four cows, etc. I think that is one of the reasons why the expenditures a year or two ago were more than they are now. I have looked through the accounts and it appears to me they are all regular. If the money has gone in an improper manner there is no evidence of it. Everything is expensive in that country, no doubt, but still the system that the Government have inaugurated is one that any business man would have adopted, and if there was anything wrong it would soon be found out. The Government get most of their supplies by contract. Advertisements are published in the press throughout the country calling for tenders, and there is a great deal of competition. Every one knows how anxious people are to deal with the Government, because if the prices are at all reasonable, the money being certain the contract is generally profitable. The contractor delivers his supplies to the Indian agents, at the different agencies. The receipt of the agent is taken in each case, upon which the contractor receives his pay. After that, each agent distributes to the different farm instructors in his agency, and each farm instructor has to give a receipt for everything he gets, and has to show what becomes of the supplies. I think that is a sufficient check. I cannot conceive why, if anything should go wrong, it would be anywhere but with the farm instructor who lives amongst the Indians. If he has pork and flour, and other supplies to sell it will soon be found out. The Indians would see it. His accounts have to be correct, and he is the only man who is responsible for their accuracy. I doubt if there is much dishonesty. The farm instructor may use some of the supplies; but he cannot sell them, and I do not see how the accounts can go far astray. But, besides that, there is a rigid inspection every year. The accounts are inspected and checked, and they have to correspond as regularly as any merchant's books must balance, and if there is anything wrong it is rectified at once. That, I think, is a sufficient guarantee to the country that at least the food is distributed properly, and in a business-

HON. MR. READ.