

Mr. CARROLL: I understand that there was some intention on the part of the Government of removing the Indians from their present reservation at Sydney to a location outside of that city. Those people who have the interests of the Indians at heart are very much opposed to any such removal. I do not say that they are opposed to the removal of the Indians to a proper location, but the Government has bought some land near the city of Sydney where it is quite undesirable that the Indians should be placed. The situation is anything but a proper one for Indians.

Mr. DUFF: Or any other Indians.

Mr. CARROLL: Yes, or anybody else. I understand that this purchase went through some time ago. As to this place, near Sydney, to which it is proposed to remove the Indians, people from Nova Scotia who have not seen it are at any rate familiar with the general reputation it bears. I desire to impress as strongly as possible upon the minister that, notwithstanding the fact that this location near Whitney pier has been purchased, it would be a crying shame to put the Indians there. I have received strong recommendations from Bishop Morrison of Antigonish, and the Catholic clergy at Sydney—and I believe the minister has also had similar representations made to him—opposing the placing of the Indians on the proposed reservation. These recommendations are made by the clergy of the Catholic Church because the Indians belong to that faith, and they point out that it would be eminently undesirable and shameful to take the Indians from their reservation at Sydney and place them in the proposed location, which was purchased from a gentleman now deceased. I do not take the ground that it would not be desirable to remove the Indians at all, if there were any sentiment in the city of Sydney in support of that intention. But the minister will understand that we object to putting the Indians on a reservation which is altogether undesirable. The situation is such that there are some aspects of the matter which I do not wish to discuss in committee, and for the time being I would urge upon the minister the necessity of deferring action until we can have an opportunity of discussing the subject with him in the privacy of his room.

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Argenteuil, Superintendent General of Indian Affairs):

I am not aware of the objections my hon. friend has indicated. The land was bought from a Mr. J. A. Gillies and the proposal is to move the Indians there. However, I am perfectly willing to discuss the matter further, if, as the hon. member says, there are aspects of the situation which it is undesirable to introduce in Committee of the Whole. I could take it up in private with him.

Item agreed to.

Indians—New Brunswick, \$28,784.

Mr. HANSON: There is a band of Indians located in the town of Devon in my constituency. They have been there for a number of years. The reserve is a small one of about five or six acres in the heart of the community, and the Indians were located there, I presume, before the place became a town. There are also in the same constituency two other reserves, one at French Village, so-called, and the other at Oromocto. The town of Devon is an ambitious and growing community and has lately become incorporated. I happen to know that the town council have petitioned the Indian Department to have the Devon band removed to either of the other two reserves in the immediate vicinity, and the Indians themselves are agreeable. It is considered in the interests of the growth of the town that the band should be removed. It is also considered in the interest of the Indians themselves that they should no longer be located there. If the minister will look into the files of his department I am sure he will find memorials from the council of the town of Devon asking that this proposal be carried out, not against the will of the band themselves but, I believe, with their consent. Nothing has yet been done in the matter and I have been asked by the officials of the town to bring it to the attention of the department so that the proposed change may be facilitated. The band are small in number, there being less than one hundred I am quite sure, and probably not more than fifty. Their location in Devon prevents the development of the centre of the town practically, and I am sure that if the minister obtained a report from the officials of his department on the subject he would agree with the contention which is being made by the town council itself, that it would be very much to the interest of the town if this band were moved out either to the French Village district or to the Oromocto district. I am quite satisfied that the Indians themselves have no objection to the