

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. No effort should be spared on the part of the department to bring those negotiations to a successful conclusion. It is rather singular that the Reverend John McDougall has succeeded in obtaining surrenders in a great many other parts of the country but not in this. This reserve consists of some 7,000 acres, only three or four miles from the town of Calgary, and is very valuable land. It is far away beyond what these Indians require. They are practically making no use of the land and are keeping it closed against settlement.

Mr. OLIVER. I entirely sympathize with the view of the hon. gentleman, and the department is well aware of the facts. We have made two attempts to secure a surrender from those Indians and have failed. The lands are absolutely the property of the Indians, so that we cannot take them except with their consent. We have made every offer in reason, but this particular tribe has been known from time immemorial as the most intractable on the plains. We are not relaxing our efforts, but my hon. friend will perhaps agree that with Indians, as in the case of white people, if they have something you want, the more they know you want it the more they are likely not to let you have it. In negotiating with them, it is not good policy to keep continually urging them to make the surrender? It is better to make a liberal offer, and if it be not accepted cease all efforts for the time. If you keep continually urging on them to surrender their lands after they have made a refusal they will get an entirely exaggerated idea of their value, and it may become absolutely impossible to negotiate with them.

Mr. M. S. McCARTHY. Some time ago the minister promised to let me have a detailed statement of the allowances made Mr. McDougall, amounting to \$4,600.

Mr. OLIVER. I have that statement fully prepared, but cannot lay my hand on it at the moment. I will produce it before the end of the session.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I do not know exactly what all these supplies for destitute Indians amount to—\$149,000 this year and \$140,000 last year. Could the minister give the details?

Mr. OLIVER. I can give the amount to each agency and also the actual items, but the items in one agency are pretty much what they are in another, and it would take a long time to give them all. They consist of provisions and medicines and other necessaries, which we have to provide those Indians who are destitute or infirm and who are not cared for by their relatives. These supplies are all purchased by tender for distribution to the different

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agencies, and they are rationed out according as the circumstances seem to require.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. What is the last item for?

Mr. OLIVER. That, generally speaking, includes salaries for the department, for those who are in the field. It includes, for instance, the survey staff whose headquarters are in Ottawa.

Mr. HERRON. I want to call the attention of the minister to another transaction with reference to leasing. It has been represented to me that there are applications at the present time for a portion of the Blackwood reserve for grazing privileges by some large stock companies in that country, and also by some of the smaller stockholders who reside in the immediate vicinity of the reserve. These latter have been asking me to draw the attention of the minister to the fact that these small cattle owners will be very glad to pay as much rent for the use of the Blackwood reserve as any big company owning large herds of cattle. After what the minister has stated with reference to the Blood reserve, I take it he is in sympathy with the smaller owners. I think if the owners of small herds are willing to pay as much rent as the large ranching companies, they should have the first privilege.

Mr. OLIVER. Some years ago there were a number of applications made for grazing rights of the Blackfoot reserve. We believed that the Indians had a right to be consulted in the matter, and these people were informed that if the Indians were willing to make a bargain with them for grazing rights, and if the bargain was on fair terms, the government would assent to it. But the Indians declined to enter into any arrangement, so none was made. In regard to the grazing rights to be acquired by settlers in the surrounding country, that is a policy that certainly appeals to me. It is somewhat difficult to carry out. Of course, as my hon. friend knows, nothing can be done in that matter except with the consent of the Indians. But my preference would be to give such advantages in grazing rights upon the Indian reserve to ordinary settlers who are living in the vicinity, if it can be done on fair terms to the Indians and with their consent.

Indians—British Columbia, \$194,730.

Mr. FOWLER. Is there any intention to dispose of any of the Indian reserves in this province?

Mr. OLIVER. I think I have had the honour to make a statement to the House of the position in which the reserves stand in British Columbia. A question of title has to be settled before we can do any-