

a proportion of the crop to go to the Indians as compensation for their help to the farmers, he would save public money, and teach the aborigines to become farmers, making them in some degree, at least self-supporting. The present prospect is a large increase of expense without improving the condition of the Indians.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. My hon. friend (Mr. Mills) has complained with regard to the annuities, that the amount estimated for is not inserted in the Estimates as it was last year. The chief reason for the alteration is the Audit Act. The Auditor General very correctly, perhaps, under this Act, holds that, no matter how the vote may be subdivided, no more money can be spent under the head of the subdivisions than is voted. For although the whole any expenditure may be within the whole vote, in consequence of the vigorous system of paying the Indians by ticket, there would be a considerable reduction—there has been one and would be a larger reduction. But you cannot by any possibility hit a saving under this treaty. You can only approximately average the figures in the whole amount of the various accounts by the more rigid system. If the whole amount is kept within the bounds of the last year's estimate, and if the report shows, as it does, the amount under each treaty—the matter is satisfactory. The whole report unfortunately has not been laid before the House, but the amount given under each treaty is stated specifically in the report. With regard to the system of payment by ticket, last year there appears on the face of the ticket which is given to each head of a family, the number of his family and the place where he was paid last. This ticket he must produce before he is paid, and under this system it is as nearly as may be a perfect check upon his being paid twice. The hon. gentleman says he finds that a large number of tools and agricultural implements have been given to the Indians, and that they have not used them. But the hon. gentleman must remember that we are under a treaty obligation to furnish them with a certain number of agricultural implements, oxen, &c. Perhaps those treaties were not sufficiently guarded as to the manner in which those implements were to be used by the Indians, but at all events we are bound to furnish them. All we can do is to endeavor, in every possible way, to induce them to use them. Some cattle which were given them at first they ate the moment they got them, but now they are attaching value to the ox as an animal of labor rather than as an article of diet. The experiment of employing these farm instructors is, I believe, working as successfully as could well be expected, considering that 1880 was the first year in which it was tried, and that they had to begin by teaching the Indians the very rudiments of agricultural pursuits. In despair at finding that their ordinary means of subsistence have disappeared forever, the Indians have betaken themselves, in a rude way, to cultivating the soil—to scratching it I might say—and are to some extent, at least, feeling the example of their instructors with promising results. Unfortunately the crop of last year has been exceptionally killed in consequence of a summer frost, but at all events the Indians have made a commencement, which is about all we could expect for the first year, considering that we had to take the nomadic Indian from the prairies, wild as the buffaloes, and set him down to stationary agricultural pursuits. The Indians are being induced to work, but they must have instructors, and these instructors must be paid. You cannot get men, from motives of philanthropy, to settle amongst a band of Indians which is away from his own kindred and lineage. The farms of the instructors are just outside of the reserves, but in juxtaposition to them, and it is their duty as well as the duty of their assistants to show the Indians how to do the work and induce them to cultivate their lands. The hon. gentleman says that there is no possibility of inspection, but I do not see that at all. We have an efficient inspector

there at present, and he reports that on the whole—though there have been one or two failures, and that must always happen—the great majority of them have proved themselves worthy of their salaries, and have acted wisely and well in inducing the Indians to betake themselves to work. The hon. gentleman says that the instructor should not get the crop. He does not get the crop. When they were first engaged they were given twelve months' provisions, with the understanding that, after that time, they should find themselves. Some of them, however, contended that anything they raised on the farms, after supplying themselves and their hands, was to be their own property. A notification was sent from the Department defining their duties. Another notification drew attention to the arrangements made with them, and further informed them that they would be charged 25 cents *per diem* for their board, and that each member of their families would be charged 12½ cents *per diem*. Statements were to be sent to the Inspector, and checked, as to the produce of the farm, and the amount consumed, which was to be charged against them. Statements were to be made every quarter showing the number of the family of each farmer. Some of them who were dissatisfied with the arrangement was told that they might go, as it was possible to get as good and perhaps better men—men who were more acquainted with this country. These instructors were originally selected in the older Provinces, but it is expected that now, after the influx of persons skilled in agricultural pursuits, we would be able to get suitable men who have been in the country four or five years, to take the place of any who may yet be dissatisfied. The farmers who get their salaries are obliged to pay for everything else they get. With regard to the two farms in the McLeod district, where there are many destitute Indians, it is intended to use the surplus to feed these Indians. On the Indian farms located off the reserves, the home farms, the Indian is to raise sufficient for the farmer at 25 cents a head, and also to put as much labor on the Indian reserves as possible, making the workingman employed under the farm instructor work with Indians, not only to show the Indians how to work, but to work with them, so that they may see how the white man works. The Indian is docile in that respect. Where the example is shown him he will take off his coat and work with considerable assiduity, much more than the Indian in Ontario and Quebec. I quite agree with what the hon. gentleman says about the abuse which has existed, in his time as well as my own, in regard to the waste of provisions furnished the Indians when they received their annuities. The hon. gentleman knows that the Indians were in the habit of assembling in large bands and indulging in jollity and play, and they would refuse to take their pay in order that they might be fed and keep up the assembly as long as they could. They had either to be fed, or starve. This was a very bad system, but I fancy it was absolutely necessary—there was no other way of paying the Indians at first. But now, with an improved mode of communication which increases every year, and with the increase in the number of agents and white employees of the Government, it is the intention of the Government—they have commenced this year, and they intend to continue it—to pay each Indian band as much as possible on their own reserve, and thus to discourage these large assemblies. The department may not be able to do this in some few places, but it will be done wherever possible, and the Indians will be paid at once by the agent on their own reserve, and thus save this unnecessary waste and prevent the Indians from assembling in a manner prejudicial to themselves. Of course the system is tentative and it is expensive, especially in feeding the destitute Indians. But it is cheaper to feed them than to fight them, and humanity will not allow us to let them starve. The vote is large, and will continue to be large, but the Indians must be fed, and the country will not