

Indians, I must refer to the misunderstanding which has arisen as to the meaning of these treaties. The band refused to go on the reservations to be paid, and I must say they made out a pretty strong case for the refusal. When confronted with the treaty made with them by the then Governor Morris, binding them to go on the reserve, take their pay there, they stated that Governor Morris, at the time, verbally promised that they might get paid at Fort Qu'Appelle; and white men who were present when the treaty was made, confirmed their statements. It seems certain loose verbal promises were made to induce the Indians to sign the treaty, and it is these promises which have given rise to all these troubles. The same cause led to the difficulties with Yellow Quill's band. The hon. Minister said that Fort Walsh had been pulled down, and the station removed to a point north of the Pacific Railway. I understood the police establishment was removed from Fort Walsh to Fort Regina. The hon. gentleman says, that the police force being removed, the Indians would go to their reservations, but I believe they will simply follow the removal of the fort; and if the policy is to be followed of aiding every Indian who calls himself destitute, the Government will simply have to deal out supplies at the new depot. In this matter of Government supplies, I am astonished to find out how much of the money spent has gone to American sources. It is scarcely in accordance with the National Policy, that \$450,000 should be paid to Messrs. Baker & Co., of Fort Benton, U.S. I see no reason why the supplies for nearly all the Indian districts could not have been obtained, even last summer, just as conveniently from Winnipeg as from Fort Benton. In connection with one of these Government farmers, I notice some extravagant expenditures. A herder named Ives, gets \$150 a month, or \$1,800 a year, and his assistant got \$387 for ten months. These are very extravagant rates. The Government have hitherto been very well served by these Indian agents, and it has not become the fashion here, as in the United States, to make fortunes by being Indian agents. I know of one of our agents who returned poorer than when he went out. No proper check can be kept upon that expenditure, and it is impossible to say whether that money has been judiciously spent or not; the agent's word must be taken in every case. In the expenditure of such an enormous sum as \$355,000, it is impossible but that the agents will, either now or soon, learn to make a profit for themselves out of it. We have heard it stated that some of those agents kept little shops at which they traded with the Indians, immediately after payment of the annuities, and they may make the profit in that way. It is very common in the States, and I am afraid it will be common here before long. It is not in human nature that these men should handle such an enormous sum without some of it sticking to their fingers, especially when no check can be kept upon them.

Mr. CHARLTON. Upon page 111, part 3, salary of Mr. Dewdney, Indian Commissioner, \$3,200. What is his salary as Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West, in addition?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. He gets \$2,000.

Mr. CHARLTON. Making \$5,200. Could the hon. gentleman say what portion of time the last twelve months Mr. Dewdney spent in the North-West?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Since Mr. Dewdney was appointed, he has spent all his time there, except when he was especially summoned, by myself, down here during the Session.

Mr. CHARLTON. He has spent, I suppose, at least two-thirds of his time there?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Well, he was here a little over two months this winter. Last year he was not.

Mr. CHARLTON. His services were found necessary here in reference to the management of Indian Affairs, not with reference to his duties as Lieutenant-Governor.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Nearly altogether with respect to the Indian Department. I have consulted him as to the future of the North-West, dividing it into electoral districts and things of that kind.

Mr. CHARLTON. I hope the hon. gentleman will succeed in getting the districts into better geographical shape than he did in arranging the districts in one of the Provinces west of us.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It will be judicious gerrymandering, no doubt.

Mr. CHARLTON. I see an item of \$1,836, travelling, board allowance and cab hire, E. Dewdney. That applies to him as Lieutenant-Governor and Indian Commissioner?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes.

Mr. CHARLTON. Is there any way of getting these items separately, so as to find out what is for railroad fare, what for board, and what for cab hire?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes; I think the hon. gentleman might get all that information.

Mr. CHARLTON. I see that E. T. Galt is down for \$1,250, for travelling expenses. What are his duties?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. He was Assistant Commissioner, and I am sorry to say we have lost his services. Mr. Elliott Galt, son of Sir Alexander Galt, was appointed originally as secretary to Mr. Dewdney, and he was found so valuable an officer that he was made Assistant Commissioner. He has found more profitable employment in the North-West, and has left the position; and Mr. Reed, a most valuable officer, is put in his place. From the beginning of the spring, and during the whole season, until mid-winter, these two gentlemen, the Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner, were travelling from one end of that country to the other, at intervals, as much as possible—one remaining at headquarters while the other was travelling.

Mr. CHARLTON. I find, also, A. Macdonald down for \$1,709, for travelling allowance. What were his duties?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Mr. Angus Macdonald is Indian Agent.

Mr. CHARLTON. H. Reed, \$1,857.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. He was stationed at Edmonton, and is now moved to Regina as Assistant Commissioner.

Mr. CHARLTON. J. M. Ray, \$1,043.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. He was assistant under Treaty No. 7. I think, he was Assistant to Commissioner Reed. Mr. Reed having moved down to Regina, Mr. Ray, his assistant, has been appointed in his stead, and is reported one of the best officers we have.

Mr. CHARLTON. E. P. Wadsworth.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. He is Inspector and travels all the time.

Mr. CHARLTON. I find quite a list of newspapers having charges for advertising. What did the Department find it necessary to advertise for?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I cannot tell the hon. gentleman. No doubt they are advertisements of land for sale, of coal regulations, mining regulations, land regulations, colonization regulations, various regulations, timber limits.

Mr. CHARLTON. I did not know any of these topics had any particular connection with Indian affairs.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am told those advertisements were for tenders for supplies.