

sure from moneys received from this Government, and received by this Government by way of taxes as Customs and Excise duties. To these moneys the Indians contribute, as do their white brethren, and not receiving aid from the Provinces, it is perfectly right and proper and only a matter of justice, that their schools should be aided by the Government here. If they are in a state of inefficiency for want of funds, I think the Government would be justified in supplementing this grant. There are good school facilities on the reserve that I am more particularly acquainted with; but it is possible that on some other reserves the bands may not be as wealthy, and perhaps the New England Society do not contribute to all the schools.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. They do not.

Mr. PATERSON. In such cases as that, while justice should be meted out, I think a too sectional view could not be entertained altogether. I would like the Superintendent-General to give his views on the public schools, as to whether he thinks a system of Government inspection is desirable, or whether the suggestions made to the Department are feasible and worthy of consideration. I do not know that the amount Government contribute to these schools would warrant much interference on the part of the Government; but I suppose, as guardians of the Indians, they would be entitled to take that position. As to whether the imposition of fines and compulsory education might be made to work, I do not know.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Mr. Wilson is regularly engaged, and has been successful, I believe, as a minister, a teacher and guardian of children. I believe that the education given to the Indians in the front is very fair; that they rather take pride in the education of their children, and that with their contributions and their share of this fund, with the aid of the New England Society, they have a full proportion of school opportunities for education. There are Indians all over the Dominion in all stages of civilization, from near barbarism upwards. However, the general inspection of schools would be a good thing. The hon. member for Bothwell, when he held the position of Superintendent-General, will, perhaps, remember that there was a good deal of difficulty about that—where the Indian children were educated, by denominational societies; these latter resisted strongly anything like general inspection, or anything like a selection of schoolmasters, or their being examined. They insisted that as they raised the missionary funds in their own denominations, and had charge of these Indians and their schools, they should select the teachers without reference to the Department. However, it is a subject of growing interest. One of the Bills I have introduced this Session provides—though it can only be valuable for the Indians who are in a somewhat advanced state of civilization—for municipal organization, and gives them power to make education compulsory. I hope the Act will work well. They can pass by-laws to that extent, and have somewhat the same right of compulsion in the educational matters as is the case among the whites. I do not think it would be well to impose any penalties or cut off an Indian from his annuity if he don't send his children to school. That would cause great dissatisfaction, and would do no good. Still, as the Indians are progressive, we can introduce the white system from time to time.

Mr. DAWSON. I can say that the Mr. Wilson, who has been mentioned, is a very estimable man, and has done a great deal for the Indians at Sault Ste. Marie. He has collected a considerable fund in England and elsewhere, for maintaining his industrial schools at Sault Ste. Marie, for which there is a Government grant of \$1,800 a year. There is an industrial school for boys and another one for girls. They are working so satisfactorily and doing so much good that clergymen of other denominations—

his school is in connection with the Church of England—have followed his example and have established industrial schools at Wikmemikon, where large numbers are attending them. The other day they sent, through me, from Wikmemikon, at the lower end of Manitoulin Island, some complaints and reports, which I sent to the Deputy-Head of the right hon. gentleman's Department; and I believe instructions were sent up to the local agent to enquire into the matter. They complained that the funds were entirely too little for the number of scholars who were attending. They showed a very large and close attendance, both at the girls' and the boys' schools. The children were making very great progress. There the Indians live near together in a sort of community; they raise a good deal of wheat, and are getting to be very comfortable on the Island of Manitoulin, and therefore they are able to keep their children at school. They had for two schools, with nearly 100 children in constant attendance, but \$1,200 a year. They had to board these children, and could not maintain themselves without foreign aid. They have missionaries collecting for them in different parts of the world, who got but very little; still they collect enough to enable them to live. While on this subject, I would draw the attention of the Minister to another subject of great importance. There were schools authorized among the wild Indians at Nipigon and other places—I think five in all, and an appropriation of \$200 a year was made for each school. This sum, in a wild country like that, is too little to attract competent teachers, so that the Indians to this day are without schools, though they were quite willing to send their children to school. I sent in a representation the other day that \$50 a year should be added in each case to enable them to maintain their schools, and I hope the Department will see its way to make that small additional grant, more especially in view of the fact that there is a very large amount due to those Lake Superior and Lake Huron Indians, under the Robinson Treaty—I believe as much as \$300,000. Now, with such an enormous fund as that in prospect—enormous, as compared with their position—it is much to be regretted that the rising generation should be without education; and I think a point might be stretched, and even a little additional sum given yearly to promote education. I may also say that the improvement within the last two years has been very marked among all the Indians of Algoma. They are showing a desire to have their children educated, above all things, and liquor has been kept from them in a great measure of late years, so that their condition is very materially improved. I am very sorry to say, however, there is one very marked exception to this rule, and that is the case of the Indians at Garden River. They are the poorest Indians in Algoma. The other Indians are comparatively rich; if they are not so, it is their own fault, for they can obtain plenty of work. But at Garden River the soil is poor, and during last fall they were compelled to live solely on turnips. These poor people cannot afford to keep up their schools, and they have a very devoted teacher among them, who, although very badly off himself, manages to teach a great many of their children. His name is Rev. Mr. Ouillette, and a little addition might be made to the sum paid him. He at present receives \$200, and an additional \$100 would enable him to keep body and soul together with less difficulty than at present.

Mr. MILLS. Are the Indian schools inspected?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Indian schools are inspected by the public school Inspectors of each Province.

Mr. MILLS. Are they inspected in the North-West.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. They are inspected by the Indian Agents.