

travagance indicated in the management of the Indians of the North-West Territories. In my opinion, looking over the expense of the department, its efficiency could be increased and \$100,000 annually wiped off, I would not say from the amount the Indians receive, but from the salaries of those employed to make the distribution and to take charge of Indian affairs. I think it would be altogether within the mark to say that \$100,000 in salaries alone could be saved without at all interfering with the efficiency of the Department of Indian Affairs. When I look at British Columbia, it seems to me that the management there is even less efficient and more costly than it is in the North-West Territories. In British Columbia the several officers in the Indian Department cost \$30,860. I do not think there is any warrant for such a cost. If any hon. gentleman will take the trouble of looking into the report on Indian Affairs, he will find that the commission which was established about 1874 or 1875 for setting out the Indian reserves, and which it was then thought would come to an end about 1881 or 1882, as all the reserves, it was thought, would then be set out, is existing to-day; and that the Indian Department has little or nothing to do at present. Let us look at the cost of the commission. Mr. O'Reilly receives a salary of \$3,500 a year. I have looked at the services done and at the work undertaken by the head office; and taking the salaries of the chainmen who were employed, you can tell nearly how many days they were at work by seeing how much each of them received. The full amount that all this cost is \$3,026, and the parties in the offices were evidently employed less than five days during the year. Any hon. gentleman who will analyse the report will see that that is the case. Take the number of chainmen and divide the amount paid them by the ordinary wages of each man per day, and you will find that less than five days' employment were given those men, and there is, therefore, no necessity for keeping up that commission at present. Let me call attention to some of the agencies. Take the Kootenay agency. You pay the agent a salary of \$1,225, besides \$420 travelling expenses and \$248 office expenses, making the total cost of the agency in salaries, travelling, and office expenses \$2,893. What did that Kootenay agency do in return for this expenditure? Let any hon. gentleman turn up part second of the Indian Report, and he will see for himself. It provided nothing for supplies, and distributed implements to the value of \$130.68.

Mr. DEWDNEY. The industrial school.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I am leaving out the school altogether, because the schools are not under the control of the agents but of their principals. The agricultural implements distributed cost \$130.68, the seed grain distributed among the destitute Indians cost \$166.65, and medicine was given to the amount of \$65.80, so that there were distributed among the Indians \$296.73 worth of seed grain and ploughs and \$65 worth of medicine, for the work of distributing which we pay in salaries to the agents \$2,893. Let any hon. gentleman say whether there is any justification for such an expenditure, and whether such an organization has any other object for its existence than simply to pension certain parties upon the public treasury. I do not think it has. I think it is perfectly clear

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell).

that all this expenditure is simply a charge upon the public treasury which might, without detriment to the public service, be nearly if not altogether dispensed with. Take the North-West Coast agency. There was paid in salaries to agents, \$2,975.21; travelling expenses, \$650.65; and office expenses, \$429.98, or in all \$4,045.84. What was done for this money? What services did these men perform in the public interest to whom this money was paid? They distributed \$193.50 among the destitute Indians. They distributed implements and seed grain, \$148.95, and they dosed the Indians with \$2,114 worth of medicine. I am not going into details to see where these medicines were purchased and from whom, but every one will see at once how preposterous such a bill is. It would be of some use, possibly, to have given to these Indians \$2,000 worth of food or provisions, but to have given them instead pills and powders and cataplasms and plasters to the value of \$2,114 seems preposterous, and I think the hon. gentleman himself must feel that it is an unwarrantable charge on the public treasury. Then, if you take the Kwahkewlth agency, I find we pay to the agent there \$1,200, besides \$353.76 travelling expenses and \$46 office expenses, or in all \$1,600. What did he do for that? He paid out to the school \$55.63, to destitute Indians \$202.21, and for medicine \$98.78; so that for the payment of a little more than \$300 you are charging for salaries \$1,600. Then, when we come to the Fraser agency, there is an agent at \$1,200 and assistance at \$47.50, travelling expenses \$137.50, office expenses \$27.75, making a total of \$1,412.75. The school there costs \$1,651.55, the provision for the destitute Indians is \$777.49, for seed grain \$332.65, and for medicines \$1,941.17. In British Columbia the largest item, next to the salaries of the officers of the Indian Branch, is the charge for medicines supplied for these Indians. In the Cowichan agency, the salary is \$1,200, the wages of men employed in the agency \$261, the travelling expenses \$400, the office expenses \$213, or a total of \$2,074. The school there receives \$68.94, the destitute Indians \$555.90, for implements and seed grain the amount is \$106.35, and for medicines \$491.81. So that there the amount distributed amongst the Indians is less than half the amount distributed amongst the white men for salaries, &c. In the West Coast agency, salaries, office expenses and travelling expenses foot up to \$1,754. The school there receives \$74, destitute Indians \$216, and for medicines \$230; so, if you add the medicines and schools and destitute Indian funds together, that will amount to about \$500, and to distribute that \$500 to the Indians you pay \$1,754 in salaries and so on, or three times the amount is paid to the white men in the form of salaries than you give to the Indians in the way of necessities and benevolences. Then, in the Babine agency, the salary, wages, travelling expenses and office expenses amount to \$2,386.52, the school there costs \$23.28, for seed grain and implements there is paid \$30.75, for medicine \$259, and for the relief of destitute Indians \$723, so that you have still less than half the amount distributed and paid over for the benefit of the Indians than the amount which is paid in the form of salaries to white men in the public service. In the Williams' Lake agency, the salaries, wages, travelling expenses and office expenses amount to \$1,806, the seed grain and implements cost \$318.60, to destitute Indians \$333,