

Resolutions 169 to 172 read the second time and agreed to.

Resolution 167 (April 27) read the second time and agreed to.

On Resolution 168, Agricultural Implements, etc., furnished under Treaties to Indians of Manitoba and the North-West, \$67,460,

MR. MILLS asked how the instructors had been received by the Indians; how many were farmers and agriculturists? He understood that a number of Indian tribes had refused to receive farmers sent to them. Had reservations been given to these parties within the Indian reservation, or were they given distinct tracts of land? He (Mr. Mills) heard that some of the gentlemen appointed were never engaged in agriculture before, and were not, therefore, likely to be successful in cultivating the soil. To take two or three Indians upon a farm, with the expectation that they would be taught agriculture, was, in his opinion, a mistake. He was of opinion there was only one way to make a success of this—that was for the instructors to go upon the reservations and have the Indians join with them in farming operations. The Indians, he might observe, had received pretty much all the agricultural implements, cattle, etc., that were promised them under the Treaties. We had been engaged feeding them a number of years, but now that many of them were upon the reservations, that would not longer be absolutely necessary. He had been told by one of the agents, that, very often, when the cattle were driven along for supplies, the Indians expressed regret that such animals were slaughtered, and said they would forego being fed if they were allowed to keep those cattle for agricultural purposes. He thought if the Government were to be at all successful in this experiment, the Indians would require to be aided to some further extent by grants of agricultural implements and cattle. This could be done and at the same time the annual appropriations could be diminished.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: As regards complaints being made by the Indians about the farm instructors, I can only say that, upon enquiry from the gentlemen chiefly responsible for that branch of the subject, I learn that not one single complaint or representation of that kind

has reached the Department. I think, therefore, my hon. friend has been misinformed. With regard to the statement that many of the instructors are not farmers, I can state that fifteen out of the nineteen were selected after a very strict enquiry as to their ability as farmers. I saw most of them—at all events the Deputy Minister saw them all—and discussed with them the whole subject of their duties before they started for the North-West. The others were appointed in my absence, but I have no reason to doubt that they were also good men. My hon. friend asks whether they live on the reservations. A small lot is set apart for the farmer contiguous to the reserve, so that it shall be the property of the Government, and the instructors should not intrude upon the property of the Indians. The instructor is there to teach them how to break up the soil, how to sow, reap and to plant. A man who merely walked among the Indians and directed them to do so and so, would not effect much. The whole thing is an experiment, however, and if it does not succeed, we can alter the mode of operations. I am told that the Indians have taken to the work in a remarkable degree, but, of course, there has not been time to learn much about the probable results of the experiment. I hope that, by 1881, whoever holds my place, will be able to give a favourable account. It is quite clear the experiment must be made. It is quite clear the ordinary supply of game is disappearing altogether, and the soil and the rivers and lakes for fishing are the only means of support left. Unless we want to sustain a nation of paupers, we must induce the Indians to cultivate the soil. An expensive effort is being made for the purpose, but it is better to feed them than fight them, and I know of no other way of doing this than the plan we have adopted. The complete disappearance of the buffalo has caused enormous destitution among the Indians. The hostile tribes have come into the country and are closely watched by the American troops on the south side of the border, who have driven back the buffalo in order to starve them out. Consequently, the buffalo has not been able to make their annual march to the north and supply our own Indians. The hostile Indians have suffered greatly, and if it had