

that the quality of the agent's work can be gauged. This work is under observation from month to month and from year to year by the inspector, and the agent is aware of this and knows the inspector is going to visit him. Unless that is the case there is likely to be lassitude and lethargy on the part of the agent and poor results will follow. That is the suggestion I make to the minister.

He states there has been a diminution of Indian stock in the last ten years. I believe that is correct. But what I think is also correct is that up to the time the jurisdiction of Mr. Graham was extended, about five or six years ago, the diminution had gone on pretty rapidly. In certain agencies where effective men were in charge, and as the drones were one by one moved away and better men put in their places, there was an improvement in cattle production. I do not know what the result has been this last year or two. I would not think the improvement had continued, because, as everyone knows, there has been a general diminution of stock all over the West, and the Indians may have had the same experience as others; the depression may have operated among them with the same result as it has operated among the white people. But, subject to that consideration, there was an improvement for some little time, and the minister will never be able to continue the improvement or advance upon it unless he succeeds in weeding out poor agents and getting efficient men in their stead.

Item agreed to.

British Columbia, \$269,850.

Mr. MacKELVIE: What has been done regarding the appointment of an inspector of agencies in southern British Columbia to succeed the late Major McGraw?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): It is still before the Civil Service Commission.

Mr. MacKELVIE: And Kamloops?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The same.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): What is the explanation of the increase of \$2,730?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Statutory increases of salaries to the officials.

Mr. LADNER: How many Indians are at present in jail on account of pot-latching?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am informed there are not any.

Mr. LADNER: I saw by the press a few days ago that Magistrate Halliday of Alert Bay had sent down some Indians.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): We have no report.

Item agreed to.

General, \$147,500.

Mr. JACOBS: I do not know whether under this item I can ask the minister respecting the sensational reports that appeared in the newspapers a few days ago regarding the expulsion of certain halfbreeds from Caughnawaga reserve near Montreal. It was reported that some of these people who had been living for a considerable time on the reserve were expelled without notice and were becoming public charges on the adjoining municipalities.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I have rather a lengthy report on this matter. The purport of it is that a white man married a native woman on the reserve, and an arrangement was made with the Indian father-in-law under which the white man undertook to maintain him in return for a lease of his holding. This arrangement the white man did not carry out to the satisfaction of the father-in-law, who wished to have the agreement cancelled. The outcome was that the council of the Caughnawaga Indians took action by resolution asking for the removal of the white man from the reserve, and in compliance with that request a constable was sent down to remove the man. In the meantime he disappeared across the boundary and unfortunately his wife and children, who by marriage forfeited their right to remain on the reserve, had to be ejected at the request of the council. That is all that happened; there was nothing sensational about it. It was merely carrying out the request of the council itself. There is no intention of going any further with the matter or of removing anybody else.

Mr. JACOBS: The newspaper report was highly sensational; it stated that about 2,000 people were ejected by this expulsion.

Mr. KENNEDY (Glengarry): I notice in this item the sum of \$50,000, payments to Indians surrendering their lands under certain provisions of the Indian Act. In connection with the St. Regis reservation, certain islands in the river St. Lawrence were held under long-term leases, which in the last few years have expired. What islands are there in the St. Lawrence near the St. Regis reservation the leases of which have expired, and what is the policy of the department in that connection?