

qu'il pourra pour alléger la misère de ces pauvres Indiens.

Hon. M. GEOFFRION.—Si l'honorable membre qui vient de parler avait été présent lorsque l'hon. Ministre de l'Intérieur a expliqué l'item 149, il aurait vu que le Gouvernement était allé au devant de ses désirs, l'item en question est précisément demandé pour venir au secours des tribus qui se trouvent dans l'extrême besoin, et le Gouvernement a déjà expédié des secours à ceux dont l'hon. membre vient de représenter les besoins. L'hon. membre pour Chicoutimi ne nous donne pas souvent son approbation, et si nous pouvons l'obtenir cette fois, elle nous paraîtra d'autant plus précieuse qu'elle est plus rare.

M. CIMON.—Je suis satisfait des explications qui viennent de m'être données, et j'en remercie l'hon. Ministre.

M. BABY.—Je suggérerai à l'hon. Ministre du Revenu de l'Intérieur de traduire les compliments des sauvages à ses collègues anglais, et de faire transmettre leur réponse par l'hon. Député de Chicoutimi.

L'hon. M. GEOFFRION.—Nous sommes si peu habitués à recevoir des remerciements pour le bien que nous faisons, que nous nous contentons de faire le bien pour le bien, sans nous occuper d'en être remerciés.

M. MASSON.—C'est si microscopique !

M. GEOFFRION.—Quoi ? L'Opposition ?

Respecting the item of \$4,500 for Indians in New Brunswick, which had been passed by the Committee,

Mr. COSTIGAN desired to offer some remarks. The late Government had appointed two Indian Commissioners for the Province of New Brunswick at salaries of \$400 or \$500. He did not think that the salaries of those officers were too large for the services they were called on to perform ; but what he complained of was the fact that, while whenever the Indians made an application to the Government for assistance they continually received a statement in reply that there were no funds derived from their lands sufficient to enable the Government to give them any relief. Commissioners were appointed at high salaries derived from those same lands. The Government would do wrong if they continued those offices. The former Commissioners did the work without salary, and if the funds were sufficient to

justify the Government to support two Commissioners and give them large salaries, those gentlemen who performed the duties gratuitously in past years were entitled to be considered when the new appointments were made. He had no fault to find with the Commissioner for the Western portion of New Brunswick, but it was inconvenient to have a Commissioner in Frederickton with whom the Indians at the North end of the Province had to do business.

Item 158, salaries and office expenses, \$16,750 was adopted. On item probable expenses in connection with Indians in British Columbia, \$25,000.

Mr. DECOSMOS asked what the Government intended to do in the administration of Indian affairs in British Columbia. Ever since the Union, promises had been made from time to time of a reform in that respect, but nothing had been done. One Commissioner sent out there was drawing his salary but was not doing anything. It had been the policy of the British Columbia Government, while he was a member of it at any rate, to give the Indians as much land as they could utilize and yet it was said that that Government was treating the Indians badly. He thought it was a great mistake for the Dominion Government to press upon the Local Government to grant the Indians a larger reserve than they could use.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said it was well known that the scheme proposed by the late Government was to have three Commissioners appointed for British Columbia, of whom the Lieutenant-Governor was to be one, and that as there was a large number of both Protestant and Catholic missions, one of them should be a Catholic and the other a Protestant. The present Government had carried out that plan, but difficulties had arisen in reference to the Lieutenant Governor acting in the capacity of Commissioner, and he had not taken any active part in this matter. In the meantime two other Commissioners were on hand, and he had no reason to doubt the entire efficiency. The Indians of British Columbia had been in a state of chronic discontent the whole of last year, and he was bound to say that he did not wonder at it. He did not consider that they had been fairly used in the land matter. All the Dominion Government had asked the local Government to do was to place the Indians of that