

expended? Is it adequate or more than adequate?

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: It has not all been expended, but I am informed it will probably all be expended by the 1st of July, of this year.

MR. MILLS: We do not know the extent to which the reservations have been surveyed. It was expected that those amounts were required for the purpose of surveying the Indian reservations. If the sum has been absorbed in the expenses of the Commission, and the surveys are not made, it will require a much larger sum to complete the operations, and it would be very desirable to know whether these reservations have already been let out by the surveyors accompanying the Commission, or what remains to be done, and what further expenditure will be required in connection with the surveys of the Reserve.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: The surveys are now going on. The Commissioner has a regular staff of surveyors under his control for that purpose. I believe the reserves have been for the most part blocked out. I must say that I was horrified to see the amount asked for, and this is a case in which there has been a waste of money, not only last year but in previous years, and a stop must, I think, be put to it. This is one of the instances in which the practical knowledge of the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) will be of service to the Government and the House, in order to prevent unnecessary expenditure. It is proposed, as the Indians are to be put upon the Reserves, instead of sending expensive resident local agents, to employ practical farmers who will clear the reservations, and to whom a small pecuniary sum will be paid, and who will assist the Indians generally in their new life—which I believe they are adopting to a very considerable extent—that of cultivation of the soil.

MR. MILLS: Our whole system of Indian Administration for the past half century has, I think, been one tending to make the Indians a dependent population, instead of civilising them and making them self-reliant. Mr. Duncan, in British Columbia, has been very successful in leading the Indians under his charge to be self-supporting. I think some effort should be made to diminish our Indian expenditure. It is out of all proportion

to what it ought be, and there is no indication of any diminution in the expense for the future. I think the policy of the Government should be to so far throw the Indians upon their own resources as to make them a self-reliant and self-supporting population at an early day. Our policy has been in the past not to secure a survival of the fittest, but a survival of everybody, to put the industrious and enterprising upon an equality with the careless and the idle. I have no doubt but that the Indian Administration in the older Provinces can be very much improved. I do not know a settlement in those Provinces where the Indians do not stand in antagonism to the white population; they are certainly not a favourite class with the people in their immediate neighbourhood. Another matter which should be considered is, whether it is right and proper that they should be released from meeting their obligations, particularly contracts for necessaries with the white population. I think the result of that immunity has been largely to demoralise the Indians, and I am of the opinion that the whole of this matter should be carefully reconsidered by the Government, and that the subject should be dealt with afresh. I have no doubt that if Municipal Government were, to some extent, introduced among them, if the Indians of each reservation were required to elect some sort of Council, and bear some amount of taxation, not as a part of an ordinary municipal Government, but as a separate and distinct municipality, if they were required to provide for their roads and bridges, and for the maintenance of their schools, a great deal would be done in the way of making them self-reliant and industrious. I know many instances where Indians have left their reservations, and gone among the white population, where they have been taxed in the same way as the other citizens; and I have seen that while those Indians were no way superior to the rest of their race, they have become much more prosperous than those who remained on their Reserves. I think our past system has had a tendency to put the Indians in a worse, instead of in a better position. In the North-West, where we have such a large Indian population, if they are led to look to the community for their sup-