

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Not offhand. There are a great many reserves in Nova Scotia, but they are small ones.

Item agreed to.

Indian education—further amount required, \$122,000.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Will the minister be good enough to give some information about this vote?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): As hon. gentlemen are aware, we have taken over the construction of Indian schools and the purchase of existing schools that are sufficiently valuable to justify their acquisition from the church organizations that have been carrying on this work. I may say that in accordance with our treaty obligations the education of the Indian devolves upon the government. Up until a few years ago, indeed up until 1923, the government were carrying on this work by means of a per capita grant, and the various church organizations had established themselves—had constructed school buildings and were maintaining them for a grant that was less than \$20 per head. I felt this was hardly fair, and I recommended to the government that in future we build all schools and equip and maintain them, and let the various church organizations carry on the teaching with a slightly increased grant. This has relieved the churches of a very considerable obligation, and has given quite an impetus to the work. I intend speaking upon this question when the Indian estimates are up, or prior thereto, because I think it is important that parliament should have full information, first as to our responsibility to these aborigines, and secondly as to what we are doing to carry out the treaty provisions, particularly with respect to education.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Has this amount been spent this year?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The contract for the Blood reserve school in Alberta, plus extras on the building, is for \$130,117. Of this amount \$19,000 is to be paid from the 1926-27 appropriation. Sioux Lookout school in Ontario, which is also nearing completion, is being erected for \$84,400. We require \$91,000 to clear up the furnishing of these two schools and make them fit for the reception of pupils. Then there is an amount of \$6,000 required for the Gitladamix reserve, where the schoolroom was burned. This provision is badly needed. I am going to say to the House now that I shall be forced, perhaps this session, to ask for a larger appropriation for Indian education than we have

needed in the past, because the work is always growing, and the demand is becoming greater as the Indians familiarize themselves with what they are entitled to receive from the government. I am asking for the present amount to clear up all our obligations for this year.

Item agreed to.

Labour—unemployment relief—to provide amounts due various municipalities and provinces as authorized by P.C. 315, \$59,500.

Mr. GUTHRIE: I do not quite understand this vote. Will the minister be good enough to explain it?

Hon. PETER HEENAN (Minister of Labour): As the hon. member will recall, under P.C. 315 the Dominion government undertook to supplement, to the extent of one-third, the expenditure necessary by the provinces and municipalities to take care of unemployment relief last year.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Is it paid to the provinces?

Mr. HEENAN: To the municipalities.

Item agreed to.

Additional amount required for investigational work re the practicability of bringing reindeer into the Northwest Territories, \$5,000.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Will the minister say a word on this?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The problem of a meat supply in the north country is becoming an ever-increasing one. Some years ago the Hudson's Bay Company made the experiment of locating reindeer on the east coast. It was not entirely a success, largely because an investigation was not held by a botanist for the location of a proper feeding ground. The United States government have made a great success of the rearing of reindeer in Alaska. Not only the government but many private individuals have large herds of reindeer, and it will be an easy matter to transport them from Alaska to the Northwest Territories, to the Eskimo and Indian tribes further north. We have engaged the services of two botanists who were recommended by the American government and who are now in the north country endeavouring to locate feeding grounds for the reindeer. It is merely a precautionary measure, to ascertain whether we have in the Northwest Territory feeding grounds on which they would thrive, and for that purpose we ask the House to vote this amount.

Mr. GUTHRIE: Have we not made other experiments with regard to reindeer?