

boring in the same neighborhood, but instead of it being commenced from the bed of the stream which is 150 feet below the prairie level, it was commenced on the top and it did not reach the depth at which coal was found at the first boring. The borings were not carried on to the depth contracted for. I hope the hon. Minister will see, not only that a large amount is voted to geological explorations in the North-West, but that the money will be efficiently spent, as Mr. Selwyn did not efficiently spend it during the last summer.

Mr. MILLS. Are any steps being taken towards completing the collection of the Natural History Department?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. This amount is for field work only.

Mr. MILLS. With respect to the Geological Survey, it is of special consequence that a large expenditure should be made in the North-West for some years, in order that we may more thoroughly ascertain its natural resources. There are salt springs and petroleum beds as well as coal fields, and it is highly desirable that their location and value should be ascertained at a very early period. Salt was of very great consequence, and the salt springs were found capable of being worked.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. This was a general vote for field work. Before Mr. Selwyn makes his arrangements the suggestions would be considered; and I agree that a large portion of the money should be expended in exploring the new territory.

Mr. ANGLIN. The value of the Geological Survey in the Lower Provinces is as great as anywhere else, for although the lands belong to private individuals their development contributes to the general prosperity of the Dominion. I have, however, no objection to the surveys being carried on more largely in the North-West, and they will probably prove of great value.

158. Indians, Ontario, Quebec and Maritime Provinces, \$25,600

In reply to Mr. MILLS,

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There is an increase of \$1,800 for the Indian schools in these Provinces. The usual annual grants for the Indians of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick is \$4,500, and it is found that that vote is fully absorbed in taking care of the Indians, and though the Indians of those Provinces are worse taken care of than those of the other Provinces, \$900 has been annually taken out of the grant for each Province to support six schools. It is now proposed that a special vote shall be taken for these schools, and it is shown by the reports that five other schools are required, three in New Brunswick and two in Nova Scotia. These five schools make \$1,500, which with the \$1,800 for the others, make \$3,300, the increase to the vote.

Mr. MILLS. I think it would be well to consider the advisability of putting these schools under the charge of the school authorities of the respective Provinces, the Government here paying the salaries of the teachers, as thereby more careful examinations and better work would be secured.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The matter has not been brought to my attention, but I will consider the suggestion.

In reply to Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT,

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The reduction of annuities under the Robinson Treaty is owing to there being an unexpended balance of cash on hand with interest.

162 {	For Indians of British Columbia generally....	23,300 00
	Surveys .....	7,600 00
	Reserve Commission.....	11,249 31

In reply to Sir RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT,

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. In British Columbia Mr. Sproat has resigned, and Mr. O'Reilly, Government Mr. CASEY.

Inspector, is his successor. He is a very efficient man, and the salary is saved so long as he serves. He is now actively engaged in settling the matters of the Reserve Commission.

Mr. CASEY. A missionary from British Columbia, who came here to see the Department about Indian affairs in that Province, informed me that there was really a prospect of trouble with the Indians there unless something definite was done for them, as has been done for the Indians in other districts. It appears that to the present time nothing has been done in regard to their reserves or payments, and they seem to think they are ill-treated.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. We have a Reserve Commission which has been laying out reserves for several years. The Indians take to these reserves very well, and I do not think the Indians are at all aggrieved unless they are told so by designing whites.

Mr. CASEY. I think a missionary living among the Indians should know their condition better than the hon. gentleman. If this Commission has been working for years at an expenditure of \$11,000 a year, it is very strange that it has not been able to locate the Indians on their reserves.

Mr. MILLS. I must say I think the Commission is being protracted very long. I think it has been in existence for upwards of seven years, and during that time it ought to have succeeded in locating 30,000 Indians. I think it is highly undesirable to suggest to the Indians that they are entitled to be pensioned out of the Public Treasury; but there is no doubt that they were dissatisfied and that the Government of British Columbia were not disposed to deal very generously with the Indian population. One of the difficulties of the Commission in its early days was to find reserves marked out, because in many instances territories that the Indians claimed had already been granted as pre-emptions to white settlers. I think the Government ought to be able to bring this Commission to a close very soon.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is true there has been some difficulty, from the disinclination of the Government of British Columbia, to enter early into the question of settling the reserves. But I do not think there is now any obstruction in the way, and I am quite sure that Mr. O'Reilly's report will be accepted by the British Columbia Government, and I believe Mr. O'Reilly to be an active, energetic officer, full of zeal for the service, even to the neglect of his own interests, and from what I have seen and known of him I am satisfied that he will not remain in the office any longer than there is need for him to do so.

163. Indians in Manitoba and the North-West..... \* 830,499.39

Mr. MILLS. I called the attention of the hon. Minister last year to the largeness of the sum for annuities, and to the fact that when you collected the payments made of the annuities due for different years, it was pretty clear, from the Public Accounts, that we had not an accurate return of the number of Indians of the various bands, and that through Indian dishonesty a considerable number were paid twice or even a third time. The sums paid last year and this year are very much larger than four or five years ago. In 1879 the amount was \$164,000, or nearly \$40,000 less than at present. Of course there were some bands of Indians in treaty No. 6 who had not accepted the provisions of the treaty a few years ago, and were not paid, and this will make some difference. Still I think there are frauds practiced on the Government in the receipt of those annuities in the North-West. Another thing I will mention, before 1876 the Public Estimates were made up just as these are, when the hon. gentleman, now Minister of the Interior, strongly insisted upon receiving a detailed statement as to the number of the Indians in the different treaties who were to receive annuities, and the amount paid. Thus, in the Estimates for 1879 it was