

be to put some person on each reservation to show them how to hold the plough and cultivate the soil, and let the crops be theirs when they are harvested. It is said by Dr. Cook, in his lectures to the theological students of Belfast, that clergymen should be taught to preach as we teach dogs to swim, by throwing them into the water; and it appears to me that Indians must learn agriculture in very much the same way. They must be put at the work, and it is by what they do themselves that they learn to cultivate the soil. I observe that in 1879-80 the hon. gentleman took as his first vote for farmers' wages \$11,250, and in 1880-81 \$36,430, and last year I think the account runs up to something over \$65,000. That is a very large expenditure, one which requires favorable results to justify it. I have looked over the report and I cannot see any estimate of the value of the farm products. There is no statement as to the number of bushels of potatoes, wheat, barley, etc., raised. I see that these men are paid by the Government; that the horses and waggons and all the appliances are purchased for them by the Government; and that white men instead of Indians are employed to labor for them. As far as I can see, the products of their industry are to be altogether their own property. One would suppose that, being furnished everything, the products ought to belong to the Government to be used to meet the wants of the Indians not settled on the reservation or suffering from famine. There is nothing in these accounts to show that any one of these farmers has succeeded in producing means for his own subsistence, to say nothing of supplying means for the subsistence of the Indians, and have a very large increase in the vote for this year over that of last year. Farmers and farmers' wages last year were put down at \$36,430; they cost \$65,000; this year the amount is estimated at \$60,000. It seems to me that it ought to be sufficient to supply a farmer with the appliances necessary for conducting his farm. I do not see why he should be paid at all. If you undertake to pay him, what guarantee have you that he will be industrious. The hon. gentleman has employed a very large number of instructors. He has furnished them with 50 spans of horses that cost \$1,700, and 46 yoke of oxen that cost \$5,700, with various other appliances. I have looked over the list. I do not say that the list is a very extravagant one, but I find that those gentlemen are better supplied with implements of husbandry than most farmers are in the older Provinces, and there ought to be something to show for the large outlay that has taken place. If the hon. gentleman continues to pay these men and take their crops they will have no motive to do anything. They will be precisely in the position of the African slaves in the Southern States who, not receiving the profit of their industry and whose wages not depending on the results, will do as little as possible. You cannot have such an inspection over those men as well secure efficiency. You may have an inspector that will enable you to detect a man who is scandalously careless and dismiss him, but you will put another man in his place who, under the pressure of the system, will tend downward to the same point. From the policy he has adopted, the hon. gentleman is likely to receive the smallest results for the largest outlay. There has been a very large expenditure for the establishment of a central organization in the North-West to manage Indian affairs. The hon. gentleman, shortly after he assumed the duties of the office, complained that under my charge, and through the exercise of what he called a meddling oversight, the management of Indian affairs was somewhat disorganized. I do not subscribe to the hon. gentleman's conclusion. The office was scarcely organized. It was, in fact, my intention to have reorganized the Indian management if we had been more successful at the elections; but during the period I was in office, I had done very little more than obtain the information necessary to

Mr. MILLS.

intelligent action, and when the hon. gentleman proposed to create a Commission in the North-West and put the Indians in the North-West in charge of it, it did seem to me he was departing widely from the principles of responsible government, for through whatever instrumentality the government of a country may be carried on, the responsibility after all should rest with the Government here. While it may be well to have an efficient officer on the ground to obtain information and report, it is evident that the final determination ought to rest with the Government. I do not think that the hon. Minister will improve the efficiency of the office by repudiating the responsibility and transferring the duties to some other person in a distant part of the country. It does not seem to me that the right hon. gentleman's Commissioner purposes residing in the territory.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. He does; but he is here at this moment.

Mr. MILLS. He was here when the Session opened, and has been here ever since, I think.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No.

Mr. MILLS. I find the office costs \$7,658, to say nothing of travelling expenses; that the establishment of the farms cost \$34,000; maintenance, \$31,000; and this year the farm will cost \$60,000 more. So far as I can learn from any information procurable, those farmers have not even produced crops sufficient to sustain themselves. The hon. gentleman has expended upon advertising, in connection with Indian affairs, between \$3,000 and \$4,000, between thirty and forty newspapers which he found it necessary to patronize. I was quite right in giving him the number of newspapers I did last night, as 124.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No.

Mr. MILLS. Yes; there were upwards of thirty advertisements in the Indian branch, and 139 in the Dominion Lands branch of the department. Looking at the proportions of this expenditure I find that the management of the affairs of the North-West which formerly cost \$30,000, now costs \$25,000 more; in addition, we have \$8,000 nearly spent on the office of the Commissioner, and something like \$14,000 in all, upon the officers and their travelling expenses, exclusive of the salaries of the Commissioner and his secretary. So we have here a proposition to spend an enormously large sum for this service, and this will be the fourth year.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No; our Estimates only commenced from 1st July, 1879.

Mr. MILLS. \$11,252 was expended in 1878-79, and \$65,000 in 1879-80. The vote we are now taking is for the fourth year.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. This Government have only estimated for two years, for 1879-80 and 1880-81.

Mr. MILLS. The hon. gentleman brought down a supplementary estimate for the expenditure for this very purpose in the previous year, \$11,250; and now there is an estimate for this, the third year. I can see no object in taking a large sum out of the Public Treasury, to employ laboring men on those farms with the farmers. If any persons are employed, it should be Indians; and if the hon. gentleman would give the Indians a share of the crops for wages, they would have a special interest in producing as much as possible, and he would save a large sum to the public. Our Indians will not learn to farm by seeing other men at this work, and they are not likely to enjoy even that advantage if the farm is remote from the reservations. If we were to dispense with the vote for wages, diminish the vote to the farmers, and allow