

he may learn to read and write his habits, and training and mode of thought are Indian. He is simply a savage who can read and write. It has been strongly pressed on myself, as the head of the Department, that the Indian children should be withdrawn as much as possible from the parental influence, and the only way to do that would be to put them in central training industrial schools where they will acquire the habits and modes of thought of white men; so that, after keeping them a number of years away from parental influence until their education is finished, they will be able to go back to their band with the habits of mind, the education, and the industry which they have learned at these schools. That is the system which is largely adopted in the United States. Out of these pupils you will get native teachers, and perhaps native clergymen, and men who will not only be able to read and write, but who will learn trades. The Indians are more apt to take to trades such as carpentering, blacksmithing, &c., than to the cultivation of the soil. They have not the ox-like quality of the Anglo-Saxon; they will not put their neck to the yoke, but they can become mechanics and work at various trades. That is a scheme which I will lay before the House rather later in the week.

Mr. WATSON. I can testify to the good qualities of Mr. Ogilvy, who distributes the supplies at Portage la Prairie. I am sure that the Indians there get all that is allowed them by the Government. He takes great care of these Indians, and I believe that under his instructions they are acquiring a great deal of useful information. Some of them are very good farm laborers, though a good many of them will only work when they are hungry.

Mr. CHARLTON. I notice that there are quite a number of farms, some twenty-six in all. At Farm No. 1 at Bird Tail Creek, the expenses for salaries last year were \$1,922. I would like to enquire of the First Minister, whether these farms are still being carried on, and what the results have been so far as the financial aspects are concerned?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I do not think the results have been, on the whole, satisfactory. Some of the farms have done very well, but it is only in cases in which the man are not only good farmers but had a good deal of tact, and had acquired a knowledge of the Indian character. In such cases—and there are several—the farms were nearly self-sustaining. I may say that, though the Government took great care in getting men who were trained to farming, and though some of them were well acquainted with agricultural pursuits, and were strong, healthy and respectable men, others have shown a woeful want of tact, and others of the most valuable would not stay on the reserves but went to work on their own account. We are altering the system very much. We find that we require men who are not only farmers, but who are accustomed to the Indians, and who know the Indian character—in fact it is more important to have a knowledge of the Indian character than that they should be first-rate farmers. What you want is to get the Indians to plant a few turnips, and perhaps in a rough way which would shock a model school alumnus, and raise cattle and roots, and perhaps by-and-bye grain, rather than that they should receive the instructions of a first-class farmer. The hon. gentleman will see that this vote has been cut down from \$40,000 to \$8,000. This is one of the economies which experience has shown could be practised.

Mr. CHARLTON. Are large numbers of these farms being abandoned?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No; but we find we can get men at small wages who will do better than farm instructors at salaries.

Mr. CHARLTON. I presume some of these men who were sent as instructors were entirely unfit for such duties—men who were school teachers, &c.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I do not think so. I know that we insisted for recommendations from people who were farmers, and upon whose veracity we had confidence in making selections. In some cases men who were selected, decided not to go at the last moment, and those who were sent in their places, did not in some instances prove so successful as the main body who were sent up.

Mr. CHARLTON. It is quite evident that some of these farms have not been self-sustaining, for I find in the report a number of expenditures charged for supplies, for oats, &c.; and I doubt very much, from my knowledge of agriculture, whether the Government will find the experiment of running these farms a self-sustaining one. It might be done, if they could get the right kind of men as instructors, and these men were industrious; but it is very difficult to exercise supervision over them. We shall find it a costly experiment, and, I think, the Government will find it profitable to abandon it.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. gentleman will see that it is practically abandoned. There was formerly a farm outside of the reserve, and an instructor was put upon it. This has been broken up, and we will get a man, with an assistant, to work on the reserve with the Indians.

Mr. CASEY. We understood, when this experiment was undertaken, that that was to be done; the instructors were to be practical men, working on the farm and showing the Indians; but we on this side of the House were inclined to think that the experiment would be what it has turned out to be—that after a few sums of money had been spent for the benefit of a few favored individuals, the system would turn out a failure, and have to drop. I am surprised to find so sudden a change in the mind of the Government. Last year the hon. gentleman spoke very hopefully of what he expected to be done; but it now turns out that a large portion of this money which has been paid to farm instructors is simply waste. I notice that nearly all the items in connection with agriculture, such as implements, seed-grain, tools, farm maintenance, &c., are reduced. I suppose that the Indians eat the cattle and make firewood of the agricultural implements, so that there is no more stock for their farms than there were when these instructions began. I regret to see that, while these expenses, which should tend, if properly administered, to the civilization of the Indians, are decreasing, the great item which tends to demoralize the Indians is increasing. There is an increase of \$60,000 in the item for making paupers of them. The hon. gentleman says that the Indians were destitute and that they will not work so long as they get supplies, and he infers that we must feed them so long as they will not work. You must, however, not only deal with the Indian considerably but firmly. If you supply him with all the means of agriculture, and promise to continue to feed him in idleness, the Indian would be different from the ordinary savage if he did not think it would be better to make his profit out of his cattle and agricultural implements, and allow the Government to feed him besides. Under these circumstances the vote will continue to grow, and in a few years we shall have the whole Indian population of the North-West on our hands to feed. Of course you may occasionally starve an Indian who is really destitute; but I think that discrimination should be exercised by the Government agents between those who are destitute and those who are not. I know that a great deal of this talk about destitution on the part of the Indians is pretence. I happened to be present at a pow-wow between an Indian Chief and Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney, last summer. The Indians came dressed in the worst possible rags, and complained that they were destitute and starving, and had no opportunity of killing game; yet these Indians were in possession of the very best Winchester repeating rifles that could be purchased in the United States for cash. In connection with the same band of Indians, the Pie Pot