

as trustees for those Indians, have not interfered in any way, have not sought to secure any right of use in the soil, or to obtain anything from the Government of Quebec in the interests of those Indians. Now, the hon. gentleman will see that he is not acting uniformly or according to a uniform principle, for certainly the Indians in the unsundered districts of the different Provinces have as much interest in the lands in one case as in the other. I do not say the Government here can obtain any title to these lands from the Indians, but where the Indians have made no surrender, the Government here, as trustees for the Indians, can see that their rights, whatever they may be, are protected in dealing with the Governments of the Provinces. The hon. gentleman comes here to ask for \$4,200 from the public Treasury, whereas, in the case of the Province of Ontario, the hon. gentleman makes no such demand, because he goes to the Government of Ontario and says, you shall not take possession of these lands until you deal with the Indians, until you obtain from the Indians the surrender of their interest in their lands, and pay them or agree to pay them a certain consideration. Now, this has not been done in the other case, and I think there should be some uniform rule acted upon. If the Government, acting as trustees for the Indians, are going to abandon any claim on behalf of the Indians in the one Province, they should act precisely in the same way in every other.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am afraid the difference is that the Indians in Ontario are rich and the Indians in Quebec are poor. The former are fortunate enough to have secured, early, reserves of considerable value and fertility, and the hon. gentleman knows that the Indian Fund in Ontario is very considerable, and they are able to take care of their own poor. In Quebec, with some few exceptions, the reserves are small and the Indians in some portions of the Province, are far in the inhospitable portion of Quebec, in the vicinity of the Labrador coast, far up the Saguenay, and elsewhere, where their lands have not been valuable, and even if surrendered, would not generate a fund at all equal to the fund in Ontario. All we can say is that this sum is spent each year in Quebec. As a matter of humanity, it is voted. We cannot allow them to starve, and I am informed, from the information in the Department, that a less sum would be insufficient, and that even with that sum there is a considerable degree of privation and suffering, in long winters like the present.

Mr. MILLS. I am not stating that the sum is extravagant at all. My observations were not directed against the inadequacy of the reserves in the Province of Quebec, nor has the Indian fund in Ontario arisen from reservations or the disposal of reservations, but from the disposal of their interests in the country generally. Take the case of the Robinson Treaty—the hon. gentleman knows they have surrendered their claim to a larger extent of territory, but that the Government were not allowed to deal with the country until that surrender was made. I understand that Indians in the Province of Quebec have, in districts recently taken possession of by the Government, made a similar claim, but as they are few in numbers, they have no effective means of enforcing their claim against the Government, and so far as I know, the hon. gentleman has not taken any steps to assert that claim against the Government of Quebec. He has not said, before you deal with this property you must extinguish the Indian title. It is not a question of their rights to reservations, but their rights to the country generally, where no official or general surrender has been made.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I quite understand the hon. gentleman.

Mr. MILLS. The question in my mind is whether, if that had been done or were done now, the Indians would not have had a larger sum than the hon. gentleman is taking out of the country now.

Mr. MILLS.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am afraid that the various Governments have been rather lax in that matter.

Mr. PATERSON (Braet). I wish to bring before the notice of the Superintendent-General a few points with reference to the Indian schools. There came into my hands—I think sent by the Rev. gentleman direct, Mr. Wilson of Sault Ste. Marie, whom my hon. friend from Algoma (Mr. Dawson) knows very well, and says takes a great interest in the Indians—a copy of a letter addressed to the Department, in which he advocated what he considered would be great improvements in the matter of Indian schools. As far as I remember, he suggests that there should be a system of Government inspection, and that there should be a system of compulsory education—it amounts to that—and that that might be carried out by the way of imposing fines in withholding the annuity money from such children as did not attend school between certain ages, and also that the money that was thus derived by way of fine might be distributed among the band, or devoted to the extension of school building, or to the purchase of prizes to be given as a reward of merit to those who deserve it. He also suggests that a very great difficulty arose from the difficulty of enrolling the pupils, from the fact—though I was not aware of that, and it is perhaps more the case there than among those Indians that I am more acquainted with—that their names were not so clearly known. My hon. friend from Algoma says this gentleman is disinterested and has the means of knowing, and he says that there are difficulties, and the schools are not working as well as might be desired. He says, for instance, that where forty children should attend, perhaps not more than twenty do attend; and he goes the length of saying that after they have attained the age of ten or twelve years, and made sufficient progress, they should be drafted into the larger institutions, such as the Mohawk Institution, and that they should be fined if, when they attained the age of fifteen or sixteen years, they had not either learned or been apprenticed to a trade. I do not speak in the way of endorsing these propositions or not, but the Superintendent-General will agree with me that any suggestions coming from anyone who is labouring among the Indians, and is really interested in them, and whose recommendations come from a purely unselfish source, are worthy of consideration, and I think the grant taken for Indian schools is a very small grant indeed. If I remember aright—but I would ask the Superintendent-General—I think the Indian schools do not derive any grant from the Provincial Governments—do they?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think not.

Mr. PATERSON. I think not. Then is not this the case, that while our other public schools are aided by the Provinces, and the Indian schools are not aided by the Provinces, and whereas a large part of the cost of Provincial Governments, including school grants, is derived from this Government, and as this Government receives it by way of Customs duties and Excise, to which the Indians contribute, a very strong case is made out, as a matter of equity and justice, that there should be grants given by this Government to supplement such moneys as are contributed by the Indians themselves. Would it not be perfectly justified if the grant was on a much more liberal scale than it is, if that be necessary? I do not know the circumstances of all the bands. The large band with which I am more familiar is aided very much in the work, as the Superintendent-General knows, by the grant of the New England Society; but it seems to me that a case of justice and equity can fairly be made out for a very liberal grant, not as a matter of charity, but common justice, because the Provincial Government pay funds to the public schools of Ontario, and the Superintendent-General says they do not pay them to the Indian schools. The Provincial funds are derived in a large mea-