

"ment, is transacted not by the appropriation of the time of one or more Clerks to its individual interests, but by the united efforts of all and each in the different Departments of the Office which he fills. I had, on many occasions, answered applications for an allowance for extra work by the Clerks, by saying that I admitted the claim, and would take the first opportunity of making the allowance. This I did on Mr. Steers leaving the Office: and the general Indian Fund being free of any charges upon it, I thought the sum might be justly charged against that Fund. The amount is so small as to bear no proportion whatever to the extra services of the Clerks, as such services are remunerated in other Departments; and it is given as remuneration for the services of three years, during almost the whole of which time the Clerks worked in the Office long after official hours."

"In proportion of salaries to receipts paid by Crown Lands from 14th July, 1836, to 30th November, 1839, in round numbers, £1,708—the whole Indians, including the Six Nations, should have paid £2,000, and have paid only £1,088. The Stationery charged is not in greater proportion. The sum charged for Mr. Burwell, was for surveying Six Nations Indians Lands, under Order in Council, and making a General Plan of that entire Tract, which was a very laborious undertaking, and has been finished with much accuracy and ability. The remaining sums, from No. 9 to 14, inclusive, do not appear as charged in the Accounts of this Office. I find, upon inquiry, that they belong to Mr. Turquand's Accounts."

If all the affairs of the Indians were, as your Committee think they ought to be, concentrated in one Department, its accomplishment would require a series of details which your Committee have not attempted to digest, considering that the principles of any such arrangement should, in the first place, be determined. If entrusted with full authority, it would, among other things, form an immediate duty of the Chief Superintendent, to look into the past management and disposal of the Indian Funds—to ascertain the existing and remaining sources of revenue, and to look forward to the best mode of insuring their future increase and security.

Under the first head, two prominent subjects would be, the Grand River Navigation Stock, and the moneys that have passed through the Commissioner of Crown Lands Office, to which may be added the balances due on Timber, Licenses, &c. sold by Mr. Blair. It will be seen, on reference to his answers, that a large sum is outstanding in securities—upon the propriety of accepting and the practicability of enforcing which, the Committee are not satisfactorily informed. It will also be perceived, that large sums have been consumed in the Commissioner of Crown Lands Office, in the payment of Clerks and contingent expenses, without any apparent authority beyond the discretion of the Head of that Department—a practice which your Committee consider decidedly objectionable, with regard to any Fund of a public nature, and the propriety and justness of which, in relation to the Indians' moneys, should they think be fully examined into, and if sanctioned, be expressly approved by the Government.

The Grand River Stock is not only unproductive, but a burthen to the Six Nations Indians, having already absorbed about £20,000, and requiring that sum to be eventually very nearly doubled. It was, in the estimation of the Committee, an injudicious investment, and, in its result, appears inconsistent with that scrupulous attention to which their interests are entitled at the hands of the Government, on which they have always relied with such implicit confidence.

It would be an agreeable duty if the Committee could suggest any feasible plan of obviating the difficulty, but none occurs to them, unless the Crown were to assume the Stock, and refund the advances already made, out of the general Territorial Revenues.

Your Committee feel that they have subjected themselves to the imputation of overloading their Report with extracts from evidence, which might, with as much propriety, have been referred to in the Appendix; but sensible of the inconvenience of constant reference to other documents for confirmation of opinions, an inconvenience frequently so great as to cause a less minute examination of the grounds of those opinions than is desirable, they have exposed themselves to the risk of such a censure, in their anxiety to insure to the evidence a more rigid and attentive consideration than is at all times the fate of an Appendix.

Your Committee will now, as concisely as possible, recapitulate the subjects of their consideration; the defects in the constitution and operation of the Department, which appear to them to require attention and improvement; and respectfully make such suggestions as in their opinion will effect such improvement.