

more than to mark out a certain district, showing its geological formation; but it was not the duty of the Government to explore or examine a seam of anthracite coal as to its thickness and extent. This was more a matter for private enterprise.

MR. DAVIES said he agreed with the hon. member for Cape Breton, and thought private enterprise was all that was required. He really thought the Government could not be expected to do more than to prepare a geological survey.

MR. PLUMB said he was astonished that the hon. member for Cape Breton should make such a statement. It was his opinion that it was the duty of the Government to, as far as possible, discover the hidden resources of the country for practical business purposes, and to encourage speculation in the development of those resources.

MR. DAVIES said he did not think it was the duty of the Government to sink shafts in search for metals.

*Vote agreed to.*

#### XII.—INDIANS.

151. For Indians of Quebec..... \$2,200

MR. BOWELL said, before the item of \$2,200 for Indians of Quebec was passed, he desired to call attention to the fact that there was no report from the agent of the Lake of Two Mountains tribes of Indians in the report of the Minister of the Interior. Why was this? He understood the Government had an agent at Oka, and that he had made a report upon the state of these Indians. It would also be well to have a statement from the Minister of the Interior as to the progress of the suit which had been entered to test the legal rights of the Oka Indians in that locality.

MR. MILLS said the Government had no fund specially applying to the Oka Indians. The Seigniorship of Two Mountains had been claimed by the Indians as their property, which claim was resisted by the gentlemen of the Seminary. That had been a matter of dispute for several years. When the hon. member for Charlevoix was Secretary of the Provinces, he made a report on the subject. He (Mr. Mills)

thought there had been an Order-in-Council passed affirming that the title to the Seigniorship was legally vested in the Seminary. Since then a number of gentlemen had interested themselves on behalf of the Indians, and insisted on saying that the property belonged to the Indians, and was held by the gentlemen of the Seminary simply as trustees. Considerable feeling existed on the subject, and difficulties arose last summer. A number of the Indians had been arrested for cutting fences and other timber on what they claimed to be their property, but which the Seminary claimed to be theirs. A good deal of ill feeling was engendered, property was destroyed, and criminal actions were taken out in consequence, and the Department having charge over the entire Indian population, under the British North American Act, sent a person there to reside upon the land and report upon the subject, to advise the Indians and endeavour to smoothe over the difficulties as far as possible, and prevent the Indians from breaking the law. That agent, a young man named McGurr, formerly a resident of this city, was still there. He had not been sent to make any special report on the subject. That was a matter upon which the Department sought the advice of the Department of Justice. No special report was made by this agent, but the Department received letters from him from time to time in regard to the matter.

MR. BOWELL said the public understood that a report had been made on the subject. It seemed to him, after what had taken place, that the Government which, as the hon. the Minister of the Interior admitted, had a general supervision over all Indian tribes imposed on it under the Confederation Act, and also imposed on the old Parliament of Canada by the Imperial Government, should not have allowed these difficulties to have been carried to excess. He had put the question last Parliament, as to the course to be pursued by the Government in order to test the rights of the Indians in that locality in the courts of law, and he had been informed that the Government still