

not less than \$1,000,000 in dues when the timber is cut and sold. When you consider that perhaps all the Dokis band were really not thoroughbred Indians whereas the Bloods and the Blackfeet are not only thoroughbreds but have the reputation of being the most intractable Indians on the North American continent, except perhaps the Apaches of New Mexico, you will see the difficulty. I do not want to say that the task is impossible, but I do want to impress upon the House that it is one of very extraordinary difficulty. I quite appreciate the compliment my hon. friend (Mr. Magrath) has paid me in suggesting that if I should undertake the work I might be successful. I beg to assure him that if I had as much faith in myself as he has attributed to me I would lose no time in undertaking to secure the surrender. Unfortunately I have not that confidence in my own persuasive ability and I am afraid I might fail as others have failed. However, it is the policy of the department as at present administered to secure the surrender of Indian lands when these lands are of no present value to the Indians and when they would be of present value in adding to the productive wealth of the country. That is our policy; we have carried it forward very successfully during the last few years. It is our policy in regard to the Bloods and the Black Feet as it is in regard to all the reserves in the country.

Mr. MAGRATH. Has the minister any objection to state whom he sent to try and get the Indians to release. I think Mr. Markle was one and possibly the Rev. John MacDougall went also.

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. MacDougall was negotiating with the Sarsees, but I do not think he went to the Blackfeet or Bloods. Mr. Markle had been trying to deal with the Blackfeet with whom he was well acquainted because he lived for a number of years on the reserve, and I think Mr. James Wilson the former agent on the Blood reserve attempted to get a surrender in the first instance but that attempt was made before I came to the department. Mr. Markle has made one or two attempts but without success.

Mr. MAGRATH. I believe it would be in the interests of the people of that locality if the Minister of the Interior as head of the Indian Department would go to these Indians himself. I have more faith in the hon. gentleman in that respect than he apparently has in himself, and I believe that the Indian wants to be approached by the head man. I find that the income of these Indians according to the last annual report amounts to about \$31,000 which on the basis of five to a family gives them \$130 a year each, and the expenditure in connection with these Indians has amounted to

something like \$37,000, which is very considerable. In connection with the Blackfoot reserve I draw the attention of the minister to the fact that there is an irrigation enterprise being extended in the country adjoining that reserve. There is only enough water for 15 per cent of the semi-arid country either in Canada or in the United States, and if you could make an arrangement with the Canadian Pacific Railway to apply water to that land now is the time to do it as it is perhaps the only opportunity you will ever have. If the water is applied to other lands now it will preclude the possibility of the portion of that reserve along the railway ever receiving water.

Mr. HERRON. I wish to ask the minister if anything has been done with regard to the surrender of a portion of the Peigan agency. I believe the department has had applications for the surrender of a portion of that reserve.

Mr. OLIVER. I do not recall that there have been any efforts with regard to the Peigan agency, at all events they have not been so persistent as with regard to the Bloods and the Blackfeet, if there is a prospect of succeeding we are prepared to undertake it.

Mr. W. H. SHARPE. Have the Indians of Swan Lake surrendered all their land?

Mr. OLIVER. No, only about half of it. They had two reserves and have surrendered the whole of their reserve in the Battleford district. The surrendered lands are in process of being surveyed and offered for sale.

Supplies for destitute Indians, \$121,105.

Mr. ROCHE. The minister stated that the medical men in Nova Scotia attending schools and hospitals and reserves were paid when called upon or when any Indians waited upon them for medical attendance at their offices. Does this hold good in regard to this vote as well? For example, there is a hospital in the Birtle agency. It is attended by a Dr. Wright of Russell. I notice in the Auditor General's Report, page I-20, that he drew \$973 last year for attending at that hospital. Was he paid only for the trips he made when sent for or does he make periodical trips whether sent for or not, in addition to prescribing at his office?

Mr. OLIVER. I understand he is paid to make a monthly visit whether called upon or not and has to answer calls as well.

Mr. ROCHE. Does he get anything in addition to his mileage and regular attendance fees for operations?