

asked for by the Grand Council of the Six Nation Indians, and the Minister is satisfied, by the report of his agents, that it is a proper clause and should be passed. It seems by its terms to be reasonable and proper, but I would make a little amendment here. The first words of this clause are different from the introductory words of the other clause. It is said that the Indian Act is hereby amended. It should be "the said Act."

The amendment was agreed to, and the clause, as amended, was adopted.

On clause 12,—

HON. MR. ABBOTT said: There is an objection made to extending the power of two justices of the peace to Indian agents. In reality it is scarcely possible to do otherwise. The class of offences which it is intended to guard against is comparatively a small one, and the Indian agent is usually chosen for his intelligence and knowledge of the Indian character. I brought the matter before my colleagues and they think that the clause ought to be adopted, with jurisdiction for the purposes of this Act only, and for offences against public morals and public convenience, which we think should be administered by the Indian agent.

The clause was agreed to.

On clause 13,—

HON. MR. ABBOTT—This is a clause which has caused some discussion as to the propriety of applying the laws respecting game in their entirety to the Indians. There is always a certain amount of indulgence to the Indians, insofar as they make use of the game they kill to support life. It has been proposed, and my colleague has consented to the amendment, that the Superintendent General shall have power to apply to the Indians only a portion of the game laws—that is to say, the portion that applies to some particular animals. It has been said that prairie chickens and whitefish ought to be protected, but it is not so important that a large number of animals and birds which are included in the game laws should be protected from the Indians. For that reason I ask the committee to insert after the word "Territories" in the 13th line the words:

"Or respecting such game as shall be specified in such notice."

HON. MR. GIRARD—If I understand right, this applies to game, and the word "game" does not apply to fish.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—That is defined in the game laws.

The amendment was agreed to.

On the, 14th section,—

HON. MR. ABBOTT—This section is to make provision that officials of the Department, missionaries and teachers, shall be prohibited from trading with the Indians.

HON. MR. DEBOUCHERVILLE—We have the right to prohibit officials or employes from trading with the Indians, but I do not see that we have any right to interfere with missionaries. I think it is not right that missionaries should act as traders with the Indians; still, I do not see that the Government have any right to prohibit them. They can prohibit officials who are in their employ, but missionaries are not in the employ of the Government.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—But my hon. friend will see that this Parliament has the right to legislate for the North-West Territories and the Indians.

HON. MR. GIRARD—There is a difference between having a power and abusing that power. There are a good many persons trading with the Indians now. The Hudson Bay Company have trading posts through the Territories, and trade with the Indians, and that clause with respect to missionaries may cause a great deal of difficulty. The missionaries trade in small articles that are generally sent to them by way of charity for the Indians, and they are given to the Indians for a small consideration. If you deprive the missionaries of the right of trading, the Indians will find some other way of getting these supplies, which certainly will not be as advantageous to themselves as the transactions they have from time to time with their missionaries. I think there should be some exception made in this clause for the protection of missionaries.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—Then all the traders in the Territories will trade with these Indians under the pretence of being missionaries. The difficulty that is desired to be guarded against is the defrauding of Indians, by traders of one class or another, of all they get from the Government,