

*Supply—Indians*

upon implicitly. They claimed that faith was deliberately broken with them in connection with a lease of part of their reserve while the "greater production" campaign was on, and that whereas they were promised \$24 per head in consideration of this lease, they got a cash payment of only \$6 each; and they claim that the balance is due them. That is only one of the grievances referred to in the memorandum, although possibly it is one of the most serious. I am not going to weary the committee by recounting all the grievances covered by the memorandum, but I want to bring to the attention of hon. members and also of the minister, in case I do not have an opportunity to do so later, the complaint of individual Indians that they are often in want of food and have to go hungry. One Indian—who, by the way, is well educated and speaks perfect English—stated to me that no matter how many children he might have—and he had a family of eight—he would only be allowed to draw from the rations house ten pounds of meat per week. Now, that might seem enough for a white man and his family, but we must remember that Indians live largely on meat and bread. The same Indian informed me that any member of the tribe with a small family is allowed only five pounds of meat per week. I was informed that as a result of under-feeding many of the Indians are sick, particularly during the winter months, and that the more-than-usual amount of sickness among them is to be attributed to this cause. I was also informed that whereas they used to have a resident doctor on the reserve, all the medical attendance they get now is from the doctor in the neighbouring town when he makes periodical visits to the hospitals. I am speaking simply from notes which I took when I was on the reserve and these Indians made their representations to me.

It would seem to me that there must be mismanagement of this reserve. The area of the reserve, I am informed, is 354,086 acres. The last returns available show 1,161 Indians on this vast territory, or a total of over three hundred acres for every man, woman and child. It would appear therefore that if any ordinary business management were applied to the affairs of that reserve, sufficient would be produced to keep the Indians in decent comfort.

Before I sit down I wish to urge upon the committee and upon the minister the importance of not in any way cutting down the grants for the education of the Indian.

[Mr. Coote.]

I was greatly impressed with the beneficial results noticeable on that reserve in the improved homes of those Indians who had been educated in the industrial schools, they having very comfortable homes compared with those of the older Indians. I was told by some of the best friends of the Indians in the district that the hope of the Indian lay in education, that if all our Indian boys could receive a proper education in what we have called in the past industrial schools, the problem of the Indian would, so far as the Blood reserve is concerned, be taken off our hands within the next twenty years, for they would become self-supporting. Therefore I ask the committee, whatever estimates be pared down, that they should not in any way endeavour to reduce the estimates for the education of the Indian.

Mr. GOOD: I desire to call the attention of the minister and, incidentally, of the members of this committee, to a little pamphlet written by Doctor Peter H. Bryce and published in the city recently. I got a copy through the mails, and I presume that the pamphlet was distributed among all hon. members. It is entitled, "A National Crime," and contains rather serious charges of maladministration in the Department of Indian Affairs with respect to medical attention to Indians. I have not the pamphlet with me at the moment, but I read it with a great deal of interest, and if the facts are anywhere near as they are stated, then I think the minister ought to look into the matter without delay. As I say, I only wish to draw the attention of the minister and of the committee to the pamphlet; I do not wish to take up any time discussing the charges it contains, because the minister can peruse them for himself.

There is another matter which I think should be mentioned. In one of the Indian reserves in my constituency there has developed a situation of a rather serious character about which I have been in consultation privately with the minister. I do not know whether it would be worth while for either of us to make any explanation; I shall leave it to his judgment. But as there is one question at least of very general interest involved, I thought perhaps the committee would like to have a statement from the minister, and undoubtedly it would come better from him than from me. I do wish to emphasize the necessity of looking into the charges made in this little pamphlet.