

system has succeeded perfectly well, since it has formed a nucleus of officers who, in the future, will be able to occupy any position in the volunteer forces of the country. My hon. friend has, moreover, drawn the attention of the House to the fact that a letter sent to the Department of Militia, written in French by a French volunteer officer, had been sent back, with a remark from the General in the corner of the letter, requesting that it should be translated into English, so that he could read it. Well, Mr. Speaker, I need hardly say, what everybody knows, that the commanding Major-General is a distinguished officer, and that he has come to this country in order to perform his duties as well as he possibly can. It is easy to understand that, having just arrived from England, and being desirous of making himself as well acquainted as possible with all that would be required of him, and not being quite as familiar with the customs of the country as he is now, and wishing especially not to commit any mistakes, when this letter was handed to him, he requested an officer to be so kind as to translate it for him into English. I am convinced that no one will have cause to regret the misunderstanding to which my hon. friend has drawn the attention of the House, and I am also satisfied that such a misunderstanding will not again occur. I might add that as soon as I became aware of the notice of motion, I hastened to give instructions to have the correspondence prepared so as to be able to bring it down as soon as possible.

Motion agreed to.

#### CANADIAN TOBACCO.

Mr. GIGAULT moved for a statement showing the names and places of residence of all persons who, since the 1st May, 1880, obtained licenses for the manufacture of tobacco cultivated in Canada, under section 32 of the Act 43 Vic., chapter 19.

Motion agreed to.

#### INDIAN INSTRUCTORS.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron) moved for a return showing the name and nationality of each of the instructors to the Indians in the territories of Canada; the residence and former occupation of each such instructor at the time of appointment; if any removed, the date and cause of removal; the salary or allowance paid to each, and a detailed statement of all expenses connected with the instruction of said Indians; also a copy of any report or correspondence to the Department of the Interior from any such instructors. He said: I would like to add, with the permission of the Minister, "also a statement of the various articles supplied to each of the instructors when sent to the Northwest." It will be remembered that during last Session, in response to a motion of an hon. gentleman, a return was submitted to Parliament containing an Order in Council recommending the appointment of Mr. Dewdney, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and of Mr. Taylor and Mr. Thos. Wright, as instructors; and a copy of a report of the Privy Council, dated, I think, the 9th of October, 1879, with the names of 17 practical farmers, who were sent to instruct the Indians in the North-West Territories in the pursuits of agriculture. It will also be remembered that during last Session an appropriation of, I think, \$64,999 was asked, for the purpose of assisting in this laudable object. How much more was expended I do not know, and one of the objects of my motion is to get information on that subject. This is a very important question both to the country and the Indians. The natural occupation of the Indians is the chase; but as the country becomes settled that source of livelihood will be gone, and the Indians will have to depend upon the resources of the

Dominion unless they are induced to engage in agricultural pursuits. In order to accomplish this object, a peculiar class of men are required, and I doubt very much, from the names contained in the report brought down last year, if the hon. gentleman at the head of the Department of the Interior has succeeded in engaging the services of men who are competent to properly instruct the Indians. It is pretty well known that most of those persons are from the eastern portion of the Dominion. Very few, if any of them, are from the North-West Territories or Manitoba, and not more than one or two of them understand any of the Indian dialects. It is pretty clear that men who do not understand the Indian language, or know anything of the customs, or habits or prejudices of the Indians, cannot succeed in imparting instruction to them; and so far as I have been able to learn, during a visit of three or four weeks in Manitoba, the men appointed by the hon. gentleman are hardly of the class possessing this necessary knowledge. I am desirous of knowing how far this laudable and desirable experiment has succeeded. I was informed, when in Manitoba, by one of the first men in the Province, who thoroughly understands the Indian character and Indian capabilities, that he was very much afraid that, owing to the facts I have mentioned, the experiment would not be successful, and that the proper kind of man to instruct the Indians is he who knows something of the Indian language, customs and habits; in such a man they have unbounded faith, which they could hardly be expected to possess in the class of men sent up. I am not reflecting upon these men. They were, no doubt, good, practical farmers, perhaps, from Ontario; but I doubt very much if they were the sort suited to the purpose. I am desirous of obtaining information as to how far this experiment—an experiment in the right direction—has been crowned with success. I should like information also as to the expense of this experiment, and the outfit and materials supplied to the Indian instructors. I should like to add a clause to the motion with this object.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I do not think the return asked for by the hon. gentleman will give the information he desires. The report of the Indian Department will contain most of the information asked for, especially as to the progress made by those farmers, and the progress of the Indians under their instruction. On the whole, I believe the selections have been very successful, there being, at the same time, two or three failures to a certain extent, and two or three changes. As to the teachers knowing the Indian language, there are several Indian languages in that country. I think that, instead of sending persons thither for the purpose of continuing them in their habits and prejudices, the teachers should instruct them in farming, as practised by white men. It would have been very difficult, some time ago, to get in that country, men able to act as farming instructors. Now it is different, and in any changes made hereafter, and some are about being made, Mr. Dewdney, the Indian Commissioner, has instructions to try to find men on the spot, practical farmers, who have acquired, to some extent, some acquaintance with the Indians. As to finding teachers able to speak the Indian languages, I am afraid you will have to wait long for them. Those who understand those languages are principally hunters, who are not the men qualified to make this Indian experiment successful. I understand the experiment has been largely successful; that the wilder and more nomadic the habits of the Indians, the more readily have they taken to the cultivation of the soil. I believe they fully appreciate the difficulties of their position—that their former food supply has disappeared, and that they must, *ex necessitate*, become agriculturists and settle on the reserves. I have no objection to the motion, with the addition desired.

Motion, as amended, agreed to.