

that it was no place for children to be educated in. I can assure them that the people in that vicinity, not only the Indians and the reverend gentleman who is in charge of them, but the people generally appreciate very much the action the minister and his deputy have taken to improve the conditions for the children on the reserve.

Mr. CALDWELL: Owing to the fact that I was on a committee this afternoon when the estimates for New Brunswick were under consideration, I would ask the indulgence of the committee for five minutes to refer to certain conditions in that province. I want to refer to the roads in the Indian reserve in Victoria county, New Brunswick. This reserve is in the neighbourhood of a good-sized town and is situated in a populous part of the country. One has to drive through the reserve to get into the market town, and it is quite a hardship, especially in winter, to pass through the reserve because the Indians are not in a position to break the roads along these three or four miles. There is a great deal of snow in New Brunswick in winter and people experience considerable hardship in passing over that road to get into the town. In summer, of course, the condition is not so bad, but in winter it is very difficult to get over it. Part of the road is dug out of a side of a bank, and when the spring freshets come it is invariably in very bad shape. Will the agent then be instructed to see that the road is kept open during the winter?

Mr. BANCROFT: I would bring to the attention of the minister the necessity of an early settlement concerning the hay lands on the St. Peter's reserve. This reserve is on the Red river just north of the town of Selkirk. These hay lands have been the principal source of supply of hay for the local farmers ever since the district was first settled. They enjoyed this convenience until about five years ago when the lands were leased in a block to a party for speculative purposes, thus of course cutting off the other settlers from their hay supply. The district is only about thirty miles from the city of Winnipeg, the train service is excellent and in every way the conditions are highly favourable to dairy farming, but I am told that since these lands were leased five years ago the number of stock in the locality has decreased by about 60 per cent. This indicates how very detrimental to the local farmers has been their exclusion from these hay lands. The lease runs out next month, and I would impress upon the minister the importance of not renewing it. These hay lands should be

available to the local settlers in order that they may be able to build up a stock-growing industry. I have already taken this matter up with the department and with the minister, and I again take this opportunity of emphasizing the importance of this hay supply to the local farmers. I think it is the duty of the government to keep these lands out of the hands of speculators and make it possible for the actual settlers to buy them in small lots. If arrangements cannot be settled in time to make a sale this year before the hay crop is ready, I would suggest that the lands be leased in small lots to the settlers for this year's cut, and that arrangements be completed for a sale on the lines I have indicated so that the actual settlers may benefit instead of being sacrificed in favour of the speculator. This point of view, I may say, is shared not only by all the settlers in the community but by the residents of the town of Selkirk, which is the largest urban centre in the district.

Mr. CARMICHAEL: What is the explanation of the increase under this item?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): In answer to my hon. friend who has spoken of the scourge of tuberculosis among the Indians, while I would not say that we are taking adequate steps to this end, because it would cost a tremendous amount of money to wipe out this plague amongst the Indian tribes, yet we are trying by propaganda and education among the Indians to make them acquainted with the best methods of combatting the disease. Of course, we have the best chance of success among the children who attend the schools. Undeniably our Indian people, in common, I suppose, with those who have lived as they have lived for generations, are in rather a bad way so far as tuberculosis is concerned. We hope by the means I have indicated and by employing nurses to help the Indians save themselves from this scourge.

In reply to my hon. friend for Victoria and Carleton (Mr. Caldwell) I do not think it is the duty of the agent or of the department to keep open a public road, but in so far as we are responsible as a property holder in the vicinity we will be prepared to do our share both in the construction and the maintenance of these highways passing through the various reserves.

In reply to my hon. friend for Selkirk (Mr. Bancroft), we have had the matter he refers to under consideration. As soon as possible these hay lands will be put up for sale by public auction in small lots. We can-