

by the reports that it is impossible that the payments have been strictly accurate; there seems to be some frauds, and I am asking for this information for the purpose of comparing one year with another, because we know that the rate of increase by birth must be very nearly the same in all the bands.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Quite right. I will get that. With regard to agricultural implements, the increase of \$18,564.46 is to be distributed over Manitoba and in each district of the North-West Territories. For the current year the estimate was exceptionally low. In Manitoba, less than \$1,500 was estimated for the service, the Indian superintendent considering that the Indians would not utilise a greater number of implements than were estimated for. If they are supplied to excess, the implements are allowed to go to the bad altogether. The portion of the increased estimate for Manitoba is intended for purchase of implements still due under treaty, with the exception of three fanning mills, some ploughs and harrows, and a few smaller implements which the Indians need, and which are essential to their advancement, but which they are unable to procure for themselves. In the Birtle district the estimate for the current year has been increased by \$1,165. The increase is due to exceptional efforts made to improve the Moose Mountain Indians, only two years settled on their reserve, and to supply them with ploughs and harrows. Fanning mills are required by some of the long-settled bands in this district, in order that they may be able to prepare their grain for seed and for the mill. The proportion of the increase intended for the Indian Head district is \$1,221.59. For the current year the sum of \$4,117.76 was estimated for; for 1885-86, \$5,339.35 will, it is estimated, be required, mainly on account of the recent settlement of Chief Pie-a-pot, the Assiniboines at Indian Head, and a large number of Indians who have returned from Cypress Hills and joined their bands at Crooked Lakes, File Hills and Touchwood Hills. In the Battleford district the sum of \$6,504.91, as against \$1,487.22, is estimated for the current year. The Battleford district includes the sub-agencies at Carlton and Fort Pitt; and the implements now estimated for are intended to be distributed amongst the bands of Chiefs Big Bear, Little Pine, Lucky Man and Napahase, all of which bands are recent arrivals from Cypress Hills, and are as yet without sufficient means to engage to any extent in agricultural pursuits; \$1,650, it was estimated, was a sum large enough to furnish the implements necessary for the Indians of the Edmonton district during the current year; but \$5,800 will, it is believed, be required. There have been large additions from the Cypress Hills to the Indians of this district, not taking in the Peace Hills agency, and there is also to be considered the fact that the older settled bands have not yet received all the implements due to them under treaty, it being the custom of the Department to issue these only as fast as the Indians become capable of using and taking care of them. In the Macleod district \$1,707.75 was considered sufficient to meet the requirement of the current year, but for 1885-86 \$6,866.85 is not more than will be needed, to enable the Department to expend \$3,600 for wire fencing for the proper protection of the crops in a locality destitute of timber for fencing, and also to supply the Indians—who are now beginning to turn their attention to farming—with the necessary implements.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Have tenders been invited for the various supplies for the Indians for 1885-86?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Is the form of the tenders the same as last year?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. They are substantially the same.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I want to bring under the notice of the First Minister what I consider is an unwise course to follow with reference to the form of the tenders. The Government, in the forms they adopt, have been emphatically pronouncing that Canadian manufacturers are unfitted to supply agricultural implements. For instance, in asking for tenders for ploughs, they specify that only the John Deer plough will be accepted. This is an official declaration on the part of the Government that Canadian manufacturers are not able to supply a plough equal to the American article. In each case the Government ask for supplies, they specify the manufacture, thus casting discredit upon the other manufacturers. For instance, in calling for tenders for waggons, they call for the Chatham waggon, passing over the manufacturers of other waggons equally as good, and in some cases better. Not only is that done, but I find in the return laid on the Table that the Chatham Waggon Company have succeeded in getting through the Department a description of their waggon, in which it is recommended above all other waggons in the country. Government influence should not be used in this way in favor of any one manufacturer, but free competition should be allowed. On the form of tender, a description is given of the Chatham waggon, which, under the circumstances, is really a certificate of the Government given in favor of that waggon. The following is the description:

“Tracks 4 feet 8 inches. Wheels made of best and thoroughly seasoned white oak. Boxing of hubs pressed in by a patent process, which effectually prevents boxes getting loose, as they are sure to do when wedged in. Tire 2½ inches; arms superior to any others made in Canada, in that they receive at the shoulder ¼ of an inch more wood than any other arm made in Canada, and being adapted to receive and will receive the climax truss rod applied by the Chatham Manufacturing Co., only to their waggons, rendering the otherwise strongest axle practically unbreakable; the axles are of the best and most thoroughly seasoned hickory and hard maple. Front hames one solid piece of bent white oak. Tongues of the best of white ash. Reaches of the best of rock elm. It is better ironed in all respects than almost any waggon made, constituting it not only the strongest, but easiest running waggon made. Lower box 10 feet and 13½ inches high; top edge iron bound. Bow bottom of box of best tongued and grooved ash. Upper box 18 inches high, one spring seat, the opening of which is the best Armstrong make. Trees and neck yoke well ironed. Second growth white ash. Each waggon is furnished with a pair even chains. Every waggon guaranteed for one year. Double trees of the best timber, also neck yoke, which must be 4 feet long. The whole to be of the best wood and iron throughout, good workmanship and finish, and to be complete and perfect in every particular part.”

In a return I moved for, I find this matter had been brought before the Department, and that there was some correspondence between the Department and a certain firm anxious to tender. I find, under date of 16th April, 1884, a letter addressed to the Department:

“We enclose for your perusal two pages of a letter just received from our Winnipeg house; please read and return. Last season we supplied the Indian Department, through the Hudson Bay Company, a very considerable quantity of agricultural implements, which, as far as we know, give the very best satisfaction. We last year called your attention to the fact that in your specification for goods you were not fair to Canadian manufacturers. We again call your attention to this fact. Ploughs—you call for the John Deer plough, which means the American made plough. You should ask for the John Deer pattern of plough, which is made in Ontario, and quite equal to the American article. You stipulate for the Toronto mower; you should stipulate for a mower equal to the Toronto mower. You stipulate for sulky horse rakes and reapers made by the Massey Company of Toronto; you should stipulate for these ‘equal’ to those made by the Massey Manufacturing Company of Toronto. You stipulate for a Chatham waggon; you should stipulate for a waggon ‘Equal;’ you stipulate for Collard flexible harrow; you should stipulate for harrows equal to Collard’s flexible harrows. The inconsistency of your specification will appear when you state that you have also made a Spaight waggon your standard, which is a very much superior waggon to the Chatham, and costs from \$5 to \$10 more to build. When you stipulate for the John Deer plough, that virtually shuts out every Canadian manufacturer from tendering; and when you stipulate for goods made by any one particular firm, that virtually shuts out every other maker from tendering. We are quite sure that the wording of your specification has been done without due consideration, and without knowing what the result would be.”