

the very next year this same band are charged with 63 ploughs, 63 harrows, 140 scythes, and 140 hay forks; and the following year this same band are charged with 1,014 additional hoes? Is it not the fact—I charge that it is the fact—that one band received in one year 50 ploughs, 320 scythes, 320 hay forks, and the very next year this same band is charged with \$2,209 worth of ploughs, besides more scythes and hay forks, and \$5,490 of implements under contract? Will any man tell me that these articles ever reached the Indians? . . . The Indian was robbed and the country was robbed, and the only men who profited by it were the agents and the middlemen. . . I ask you, Sir, and I ask this House, when the Parliament of this country liberally donated \$1,109,000 to feed, clothe and support the Indians, why we should pay the sum of \$3,630 as commission to I.G. Baker and others for advances made by them? . . .

Extravagance of Officials.

In the account for 1883, the enormous sum of \$26,312 is charged to the Indian account for the travelling expenses of the agents appointed by this Government over the Indians in the North-West Territories. And recollect, we supply these men with horses, buckboards, sleighs, and camping outfits and everything required for travelling, and yet there is this enormous sum of \$26,312 charged in one year for travelling expenses. I tell you, Sir, and I say it without fear of successful contradiction, that every agent in the service, from the Lieutenant-Governor down to the humblest farm instructor, can travel in the North-West Territories from the 1st January to the 31st December, all the year round, and not spend \$26,000. It is the cheapest country in the world to travel in. All you require is a few Indian ponies and a buckboard, and in the case of these agents these things are supplied. Last year the expenditure on Indian account was \$1,109,604. Mr. Dewdney, in his report, says it cost \$454,000 to

feed and clothe the Indians. Will the hon. Minister explain to the House and the country what became of the other \$645,000? The Indian account is charged with sums paid to Indians who were not in the band; it is charged with sums paid to Indians who never were in the band; it is charged with sums paid to Indians after they were dead and before they were born, as the following statement made by Mr. McColl in his report shows:

"One of the councillors having two wives is represented on the May sheet as receiving annuity in 1881, for a family of 11 including 2 infant children, whereas at the date of payment, only one of these children was born."

How Oxen are paid for.

Take the Indians under Treaty No. 4. They are charged with seventy-one yoke of oxen in three years. The Indians under Treaty No. 6 are charged, in 1883, with 45 yoke of oxen; in 1884, forty-two; and in 1885, forty-two, or 130 yoke of oxen in three years. Now, Mr. Speaker, I ask you to tell me why the Indian account should be charged in three years with 130 yoke of oxen under this treaty, although this band of Indians had not, so far as I am able to judge, a thousand acres under cultivation? It is nothing but a wilful waste of money. These 130 yoke of oxen cost the people of Canada \$26,470; and many of the oxen were aged, crippled and unfit for work of any kind when delivered, so that in a year or so many of them died from old age, and such of them as did not die had to be sold or killed, as they were unfit for work. . . .

Dewdney's Pickings.

The Indian account was charged a year or two ago with still more curious items. Among them are a table cloth and a napkin for His Grace the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the North-West, washing blankets, cotton, painting, varnishing and cleaning Government house carriage, kitchen utensils. Now, we pay Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney