

Mr. BOYS: The leader of the Opposition is well able to answer any rebukes that may be directed to him. I wish he were here to attend to that phase of the matter himself; he could do it better than I can. However, the minister says that he is prepared to let section 2 stand. That section repeals certain sections of the act, and that after all is the vital point.

Mr. FORKE: I am glad that the minister has come to the conclusion to let the section stand, because a good many members do not know what it means, and I should hate to be called upon to vote upon it at the present time.

Section stands.

On section 5—Commencement of act.

Mr. ROBB: This section amends the act by striking out the words "a day to be fixed by proclamation of the Governor in Council" and substituting the words "the first day of July 1923." I think we had better let that section stand.

Section stands.

Progress reported.

## SUPPLY

### INDIAN AFFAIRS

The House in Committee of Supply, Mr. Gordon in the chair.

Indians—Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and N.W.T., \$714,223.

Mr. EVANS: The minister might explain the increase of \$36,000 odd in this item.

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (Minister of the Interior): There is an increase of \$36,491 in this item.

Of this increase \$18,962.00 is accounted for owing to additional supplies having to be provided for, in order to meet obligations resulting from the negotiations of a treaty with Indians of the Great Slave lake and Mackenzie River districts numbering 3,000 souls. The supplies furnished comprise flour, bacon, tea, blankets, ammunition, twine and tools for which tenders will be invited of the trading companies in those districts and contracts awarded in the regular way. There is also an increase of \$16,359.00 in the estimate for hospitals, medical attendance, etc. This increase is due chiefly to the urgent necessity of establishing and maintaining a hospital on the Sarcee reserve in order to alleviate the condition of these Indians. They are in poor condition physically and unless some very thorough procedure is adopted, it is reported that the band will disappear within a measur-

able time. To remedy this, vigorous prolonged and radical measures are an absolute necessity. The Church of England has consented to close the Sarcee boarding school, and the department is using the building as a hospital under the supervision of a doctor, who also acts as Indian agent, and a staff of trained nurses. There is also an increase of \$1,170 in the estimate for triennial clothing which is unavoidable, as a greater number of chiefs and headmen of treaties Nos. 1, 2 and 5 are entitled to suits next year than those of treaties Nos. 4, 7 and 10 who received suits this year.

I promised a short statement yesterday in dealing with this matter with respect to my personal observations of last year on visiting the Indians of western Canada. I stated that I had no personal knowledge of the conditions in the East, and I may remark with regard to the West that I did not by any means cover anything like all the reserves. I simply got an idea of what might be accomplished amongst the Indians of western Canada, particularly if we were able to carry on different educational methods. I am not criticizing the education of the past; far be it from me to do that. The first desire of the various church organizations who were carrying on work among the Indians was naturally to Christianize them; and that is a laudable purpose. Their next object was to give the Indians an education, which in my opinion is not of a character that would change them from their aboriginal habits to the habits of the white man with whom they must enter into competition if they are to make their livelihood in other ways than they formerly followed, namely, of hunting, fishing, and so forth.

I am asking for a considerable increase for educational purposes believing, after discussing the matter with the Oblate Fathers and those interested in Indian education, that we should give to their education a more technical character and, so far as agriculture is concerned, devote more attention to that aspect of our educational activities than has been the case in the past. Let me give an instance of the splendid results that can be obtained where effort has been put forth to educate the Indian, particularly for agricultural pursuits. I refer now to what I observed in Saskatchewan on the File Hills reserve. For a period of upwards of twenty years there have been carried on there educational methods that are now showing admirable results. This work was done under the supervision of the department here, and more particularly I presume under Mr. Graham, who has been in charge of