

Our Indian law has been improved, in my judgment, somewhat. It is not so many years ago that the Indian law on the Statute book was, that if any Indian woman lived in a state of adultery with a white man and had issue, all her children were upon the pay-roll and received their share of the annuities; whereas, if she married according to the laws of God and man, our law stepped in and cut off her children, and said they should not receive their money. I had occasion to raise my voice in that behalf, and am glad to say that that law does not exist in its full vigor at present. Another clause is that an Indian possessed of more energy and educated at these establishments, and wishing to find scope, and development, and better chances of success, if he went to the country to the south of us, as many of our young men do, our Indian law still comes in and entails a penalty upon him for going away, and forfeits his annuity moneys, which are his moneys and belong to the tribe. I am not sure but that even yet, if they leave the reserve and go to another part of Canada, our Indian law cuts them off. But it still remains that if an Indian woman marries a white man she now can receive her share of the annuity moneys, but the issue are not allowed to participate, our law entails a penalty upon them; and I for one do not hesitate to say that instead of being in favor of keeping the Indians as Indians, of keeping the Indians to themselves, and so framing a law that if an Indian steps outside the reserve or tries to find a white man or a white woman with whom to mate, I for one say the law should throw no obstacle in their way at all. Some of the finest specimens of manhood are what are known as half-breeds. Why, under our Indian law, they should have a penalty entailed upon them, I have been unable to conceive. I think the only solution of the Indian problem of this Continent is this: that the sooner you can bring the Indian up to that standard which would warrant you in giving him all the rights and liberties that are enjoyed by his white brethren, and entrust him with all the responsibilities of citizenship, the sooner you will solve that problem. I see no solution of it in shutting them up in reserves and maintaining the tribal relation for all time to come. I am glad to hear the Minister say—I gather that from a remark he made—that he contemplates that the Indian of the North-West, if he proves himself fit, may have a homestead given to him. It seems to me that is the right direction. I am very much inclined, I dare say more than other members of the House, to support the hon. Minister in that step. It is expensive, no doubt, but it is expensive to feed Indians, it will be expensive to feed them for years to come, and I for one believe that we must not enter upon a policy of the extermination of the Indians. They are here and they must be treated in that way. I believe a step in the direction of relieving ourselves of the support of these Indians is to give them facilities such as they shall not feel themselves forced to go back again into that condition out of which they were taken.

Mr. DAWSON. There are quite a number of Indians in my constituency—as many as 10,000, I believe,—but they are not quite so thickly settled as they are in the constituency of the hon. member who has just spoken. We have had some experience with these industrial schools, and they have been successful so far. On Manitoulin Island and at Sault Ste. Marie there are schools both for boys and girls that have been exceedingly successful. With regard to what my hon. friend says of the tribal system, however badly it may work in his constituency where the Indians are probably further advanced and more thickly settled, its abolition would not certainly work well among the Indians in Algoma, and I do not think it would work well in the North-West. The tribal system is, in my opinion, the true protection the Indians have against the encroachment of the white man. If they had the fee simple in their own hands they would not be able to protect it and it would be taken from them. I

Mr. PATERSON (Braut).

think it would probably help the civilized Indians a great deal if they had the franchise conferred upon them. The Indian, even though he lives upon the reserves, should have his own ground separate from the others, and if he becomes a good citizen and industrious, there is no reason why he should not have the franchise. It would tend to elevate him in his own esteem, at least, and there is a great deal to be said in that respect.

373. To provide the salaries of two additional Indian Agents in British Columbia.....\$2,400.00

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. These are two additional agents for the north-west coast of British Columbia, including Queen Charlotte's Island and up as far as the American settlement.

375. Consolidation of the Dominion Statutes.....\$10,000.00

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. This is in connection with the consolidation of the Statutes that has been begun by Mr. Cockburn. We think that preliminary work will be advanced far enough to allow the Commission to be appointed during this year. I understand from the hon. First Minister, that the intention is to appoint three Commissioners, one speaking the French and two the English language.

Mr. BLAKE. When a vote is asked for the creation of a Commission of this description, it is proper that we should be informed as to what is the intended scale of remuneration. At the present time there is a Commissioner who is being paid at the rate of \$4,000, and a Secretary being paid \$1,500.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I am not in a position to give this information at present, but will do so to-morrow.

379. To aid the Geographical Society of Quebec in their explorations of the St. Lawrence, Labrador and James' Bay.....\$300.00

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I saw the president of this society, Colonel Rhodes, to-day, and he explained to me that the society expected a much larger sum than \$300. I explained that we had seen that the Quebec Legislature had given \$300, and that we accordingly recommended the same amount. He explained that for that small sum only limited explorations could be made, and that if explorations were to be undertaken in the country north-west of Lake St. John, and towards Lake Mistassini, which is reported to be as large as one of the great lakes in Ontario, and on to James' Bay, it would be a very important work, and a large sum would be required. The Government, however, ask Parliament to vote only \$300 this year.

Mr. BLAKE. While it may be a very good plan to assist a society, yet, if a large sum is to be voted by Government, the exploration might as well be conducted by Government.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I told the president of the society that if a large sum was ultimately to be expended, it would be questionable whether the Government should not undertake the exploration themselves.

380. To provide for an annual allowance to the widow of the late Sir George E. Cartier.....\$1,200.00

Mr. BLAKE. Is this intended to be a permanent amount?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Yes. The fact is, the position of Lady Cartier and her daughters is such that we thought it necessary to ask Parliament to vote this sum.

381. To provide for a gratuity of six months' salary to the widow of the late Frank Shanly...\$3,250.00

Mr. BLAKE. I should like an explanation of this item?

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. It is known that the late Mr. Frank Shanly was appointed for the purpose of adjusting a