

the good relations which now exist should ever be disturbed. To civilise the Indians you must begin with the young; and while I am in favour of every effort that will bring him within the pale of Christianity and civilisation, I do not go the length of my hon. friend from Bothwell in his view of municipal institutions for the Indians. Danger commences with the Indian when he gets in council, and I am afraid that we must take a good many preliminary steps first before he is ripe for this luxury of civilisation. I desire to call attention, however, to the pernicious and expensive practice of paying the Indians away from their reserves. This is done generally to suit the convenience of the agent, and is expensive to the Government, without being of any advantage, but, in many cases, a very great disadvantage to the Indians, and the Department should insist on a rigid performance of this duty by its agents. Again, there is no doubt but that the practice of paying to the Indians bank bills of a large denomination has had the effect, in many instances, of exposing him to fraud by unscrupulous traders, and I would urge that, in future, no bill of larger denomination than one dollar be used at any of the payments. I trust that the right hon. Minister will receive these suggestions in the spirit they are offered, and that by a careful consideration of the means by which we can raise him to the condition of a self-sustaining citizen of our common country, Canada may continue to merit the praise justly bestowed upon her for her treatment of this race, whose destinies we hold in our hands.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: I agree with very much what my hon. friend has just said, and I am exceedingly obliged to him for his interesting statement. He opens up a large question when he suggests the moving of the whole of the Indians from that portion of the country where their ancestors lived, to another portion. Unless the Indians would consent to that course, a pressure, almost hostile, would have to be employed before they could be induced to leave the regions where they and their forefathers had roamed for a more northerly part of the country. However, if they could be induced to go it would be a great

advantage, and it would relieve the whole of that region from the disadvantage of an Indian population. It is a subject that is worthy of all consideration, and I shall endeavour to give it my best thought. I am glad to inform the hon. gentleman that we have anticipated his last proposition, that the Indians should be paid in bills of small denominations. It has been decided by the Government that all payments made either to Indians or the Mounted Police shall be made in bills of \$1, so that the Indian, when he gets a piece of paper will know exactly what its value is. I cordially agree with my hon. friend in his statement that the agent should go to the Indians, and not the Indians, in a large body, to the agent. Orders have already gone forth that agents shall pay the Indians on their reserves.

In reply to Mr. MILLS,

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said, as the agents had been instructed to pay the Indians on their reserves, the expenditure for food would be but trifling. They could not abandon the custom of giving the Indians food when they were paid. He supposed they would get some food on the day they were paid, and that would be an end of it, consequently there would be a wonderful saving. The estimated expenditure for feeding Indians was \$21,000.

MR. TROW: I fail to understand why such a large expenditure should be incurred in feeding Indians yearly after the Treaty is made. I can readily understand that when a Treaty is pending or negotiations are going on, several days are employed, invariably taken up in discussions, and then food must be allowed to the Indians. It is the custom of all nations to do so. I know at times there is unnecessary waste and lavish expenditure in this respect. During my tour in the North-West, I visited Q'Appelle. Probably from three to four thousand Indians were assembled to receive their pay under Treaty No. 6. They had a regular jollification, and the paymaster had to feed them for five days before they would accept of their pay. Generally speaking, at such gatherings, the Indians have numerous imaginary complaints to make: such as provisions, tobacco, blankets or ammunition, was not as represented. All such complaints are