

to these facts. I do not want that the farmers who now hold a part of the Caughnawaga reserve should be dispossessed. In fact I am not sure the thing could be done, even if it were desirable to do it, but I want that justice should be done to the Indians. If their lands have been unjustly taken from them—and until proof to the contrary, I am inclined to think they have—I think it would be but reasonable that the Government should take steps to indemnify them, or at least to ascertain whether they have not been dispossessed in an illegal manner. Mr. Speaker, I did not anticipate that this question would be taken up this evening, and I am unprovided with certain documents which would have enabled me to treat this question more completely. Nevertheless, I submit these explanations, reserving to myself the privilege of bringing this question before the House again, when I shall be in possession of fuller information.

Mr. DEWDNEY. From what I can gather of the remarks made by the hon. gentleman, as interpreted to me by the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. LaRivière), the white settlers have been making encroachments on the Indian reserves at Caughnawaga. Since the notice appeared on the paper, I have had enquiries made in the Department, and I find that there is no correspondence whatever in reference to this matter. Since the hon. gentleman has made these remarks I will, when they are printed in the *Hansard*, go through them, and I will instruct my officers to enquire further into the matter, and I shall be very glad to confer on the subject with my hon. friend.

Mr. LAURIER. I would call the attention of the Minister to these facts in connection with this matter. It appears that the Indian reserve, such as it was conceded first by the Government of France, covered an area of over 30,000 acres of land, and it appears the reserve has now been diminished to about 12,000 acres. The white people evidently have crowded out some of the Indians, and taken possession of their lands. This may have been done with or without authority. I understand that some of these encroachments have been made with authority, though I do not know what the authority could be. I understand that the Indian Department has taken proceedings a few months ago to compel some of those who are in possession of those Indian lands, to pay the ground rent. Now, I do not see how the Department could sue anybody in possession of Indian land to pay ground rent, unless those parties had derived their title to possession from some concession made by the Government. If the Government are collecting ground rents which are owing to the Indians, these payments naturally go into the funds of the Indians, and would inure to their benefit; but if they are encroachments which have been made without any authority whatever by the whites, the case is different. We know how it is in the vicinity of reserves; the white settlers are very apt to encroach a little every year, and the process goes on so long that the Indians may be deprived very materially of the reserve they originally possessed. If some of the encroachments have been going on, if to-day the Indians are deprived of a good deal of their lands, certainly the Department must take some measure—not to restore them their land, because I suppose that could not be done without a good deal of disturbance—but certainly in my

opinion the Department should take some measure to indemnify them for the encroachments they have suffered. It is not fair to the Indians that they should be deprived of the lands which have been conceded to them for their benefit, that the white settlers should be allowed to encroach upon them without any compensation being given to the Indians whatever. This is the idea which my hon. friend has been endeavoring to impress upon the Minister. The Minister says there is no correspondence; there may not be correspondence, but the subject is one which, in my opinion, ought to engage the attention of the Department.

Motion agreed to.

#### I.C.R.—EMPLOYÉS' INSURANCE SCHEME.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) moved for :

Return showing the past operation of the Intercolonial Railway employés insurance scheme, and specially, (a) the annual receipts and expenditure, including salaries of officials for each year the scheme has been in operation; (b) the amounts paid each year out of the fund to the employés or their representatives, and whether for death or injury; (c) the surplus (if any) now on hand of such fund. He said: I hope this return will be brought down at an early day, because I should like to have it before we pass to the estimates of the Intercolonial Railway. The information is almost at hand, and with a little extra exertion I think we might have it in a day or two.

Motion agreed to.

#### I.C.R.—OFFICIAL CARS.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) moved for :

Return showing (a) the names and number of officials' cars on the Intercolonial Railway and its branches; (b) the original cost, date and place of building each car, or name of person or company from whom purchased; (c) the cost of repairs to, or expenditure in each of such cars since acquired; (d) the names and salaries and expenses of each employé on such official cars; (e) the annual expenses of providing the supplies to each such car. He said: The return will be interesting for more than one reason. A few years ago we had one official car, and I know that about 1878 that car formed the text of more speeches and orations than I suppose any other similar expenditure ever made in the country. I do not think there were any Conservative candidates from the Province of Quebec down to Prince Edward Island who did not iterate and reiterate the expenditure on the celebrated Brydges car. Since then we have been undergoing a process of development at the cost of the taxpayer, and it has been a very rapid progress. If I am rightly informed, we have not simply one official car by which railway officials can pass from one place to another, but we have six or seven, or at all events a considerable number. These cars have not only increased in number, but also in magnificence, for this is a great country, we are a great people and we have great officials, especially great officials. In comparatively modern times and under the comparatively economical expenditure of the hon. member for East York (Mr. Mackenzie) and his Administration, we had only one great railway official entitled to travel in an official car. Now every railway official must have his car, not only the general manager of the Intercolonial but some of the Ministers, and also some of their families; and, moreover, they must have cars with all modern improvements, black men to wait on them, and so on. We want to know how much