

ination. I should like to be assured by the minister that proper medical examination of the Indians will be not only made, but continued.

Mr. NEILL: I can heartily endorse the attitude taken by the minister in regard to increasing the grants to Indians. The question is not one of economy, it is one of justice. These local hospitals have been grossly underpaid for a number of years. I have in mind a hospital in my district, but this can be duplicated in many others. We have, in my district, a hospital kept up partially by government grants, but largely by personal subscriptions and money contributed by means of dances or other entertainments. Every year, however, that hospital goes behind between \$2,000 and \$3,000. When we came to analyse the situation at a recent annual meeting, we found we were doing the Indian work at about half the cost. The question was raised—why should the white people put their hands into their pockets as a matter of charity in order to maintain the wards of the Indian Department? The question is not one of co-operation with churches and similar

4 p.m. institutions. These Indians are certified by the local doctor to require medical treatment; they are put into the hospital, and hitherto the hospital has been drawing \$1 a day per patient while the cost in our hospital has been somewhere around \$3 a day. In addition, of course, we had the Government grant to help out; but we sustained a heavy loss on every Indian we treated. This is unfair, uncalled for, and I am heartily glad that the minister has taken the stand which he has to-day.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The medical officer on the Stony reserve is Dr. A. W. Park at a salary of \$600.

Mr. SHAW: Does he live on the reserve?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I am told that his home is at Cochrane, Alberta.

Mr. CALDWELL: What items are covered by the vote of \$335,805 for general expenses? This seems to be a very large item for miscellaneous expenses, if that is what it means, and there is an increase of \$41,760 over last year for the same purpose. The New Brunswick appropriation is passed, I notice that the item for miscellaneous and unforeseen expenses in that province is only \$850.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I will give the items that make up this sum.

Mr. CALDWELL: I want just a general idea of what it covers.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I think I can give that better by reading the items it covers. The increase is accounted for as follows: \$2,760 provided for increases in salaries which will be granted under the Civil Service Act for the fiscal year; \$39,000 to meet additional expenditures to carry out the terms of Treaty No. 11, negotiated in 1921 with the Indians of the Great Slave lake and Mackenzie river district, as explained in the special items of this estimate. This sum was voted for the last fiscal year, 1921-22, under the general vote, but is transferred now to the vote, "Northwest Territories," where it properly belongs. It is therefore not an increase in the appropriation asked for 1922-23 over that for 1921-22, there being a corresponding reduction made in the general vote. The \$39,000 is a transfer from the general vote to this special vote.

Mr. COOTE: I should like to bring before the committee the condition of affairs which, I believe, exists on the Blood reserve in Alberta. When I was on the reserve this winter I was interviewed by about twenty Indians, who presented me with a lengthy memorandum setting forth a list of grievances which they have against the Government. In addition to those grievances, they personally stated that they had a lot of complaints against the treatment which they were receiving, and that they had nobody to speak for them; that the means of communication between them and the department at Ottawa seemed to be closed; that since 1918, when the Indian office was established at Regina, they seem to be able to get no relief from what they consider to be ill treatment. At their request I promised to take the matter up with the Government. I have brought it to the attention of the Minister of Indian Affairs, and I believe he will give it very sympathetic consideration. At the same time to satisfy some of the friends of the Indians in the vicinity of the Blood reserve I want to bring the matter before the members of this committee.

The Indians complained particularly that the department had broken faith with them. I think that is a very serious complaint, as the Indian always deals by word of mouth, not by written agreement, and therefore we should be very careful to do everything to maintain his belief that the word of the Government may be relied