

Mr. MURPHY: I do not think there has been any change of practice.

Mr. McINTOSH: I understand that this mill in North Battleford is not on the patronage list; is that correct?

Mr. MURPHY: I do not know whether it is or is not a patronage list; I know there is a list.

Mr. McINTOSH: The departmental list.

Mr. MURPHY: I am not sure whether or not the name of that firm is on this list.

Mr. McINTOSH: Is the North Battleford Milling Company on the patronage list, and if not, why not?

The CHAIRMAN: Order.

Mr. BENNETT: The minister has answered the last question.

Mr. McINTOSH: In view of the minister's statement that he does not know whether or not these mills are on the patronage list, I am sure that the electors of the two Battlefords will wonder at his knowledge of and familiarity with the affairs of the department.

Item agreed to.

General, \$286,500.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): The Prime Minister seems to know something about patronage lists. I spent the last year or two trying to find out whether or not such a thing was in existence.

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. member did not know there was one in existence?

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I did not rise to speak about patronage lists, but rather to draw the attention of the government and the minister to the large reduction which has been made in the votes for Indians. I notice that the supplementary estimates contain an additional \$200,000 for the relief of destitute indians. This will cut down the reduction considerably—

Mr. MURPHY: It is for destitute indians and hospitalization.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): —but even with that additional amount there is still a cut of \$300,000.

Mr. MURPHY: It is more than that.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): I was speaking in round figures. I do not take exception to the decrease in the vote for education, as I understand that one can cut down on the construction of buildings and the like without creating a serious hardship, but before the year is out this drastic cut will prove to

be a serious matter to the Indians. During my time in the department I found that the requirements of the Indians were growing at a considerable rate and for purposes which it did not seem humanely possible to refuse.

Mr. NICHOLSON: I know something of the conditions of the Indians throughout northern Ontario, and unless a very definite step is taken in the near future to provide a means of livelihood for them a serious condition will develop. The Indians have virtually been deprived of the means of maintaining themselves by trapping and hunting, because these privileges have been taken away from them by the white trapper. I would urge that the government in cooperation with the provincial authorities try to evolve a scheme under which fur-bearing animals will be conserved for the Indians. I am speaking only of that part of the country of which I have some knowledge, but I believe the same condition applies right across Canada.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): That is correct.

Mr. NICHOLSON: The situation in northern Ontario is such that if something is not done very quickly the Indians will have to be taken care of en bloc. The misery among these people has reached a state of almost complete desperation, and I am confident that before the year is out very substantial additions will have to be made to what is now being provided to take care of these destitute Indians. The natural reflex from the unemployment situation has affected them to some degree, but the main cause of distress is the fact that their hunting grounds are being destroyed by the white trappers. Their rights should be recognized, and they should be allowed their hunting grounds in at least the unorganized parts of the north country.

Mr. MURPHY: Last year there was spent for Indians the sum of \$5,956,855, in addition to the supplies which they were able to obtain from their own reserves. In western Canada very fertile land has been set aside for the Indians and they carry on farming operations on their reserves. In British Columbia they carry on farming in addition to their fisheries, but in northern Ontario and Quebec the Indians are not so well provided for. Their reserves are not agricultural lands, and they are unable to raise many of the commodities they themselves require. The hon. member for East Algoma has brought up a point which is more provincial than otherwise in character. I am informed that the Ontario government have appointed a com-