

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There are several tribes unprovided with reservations. Mr. O'Reilly now holds the position formerly held by Mr. Sproat. He was formerly one of the county judges, and he is a very efficient officer. He was employed some two or three years ago, and was obliged to give his services if called upon to do so. I am much mistaken if there is not in the reports a statement as to the number of reservations which are yet incomplete. It will be some time before all the bands in the interior are provided with reserves. There is no great hurry in laying out reserves, until there is a prospect of white men going in near them. There are two or three reserves which are expected to be completely surveyed this year. As the hon. gentleman knows, there has been a good deal of trouble in making the arrangements with the provincial authorities. They object generally that the reserves have been too large for the Indians. However, the Dominion Government, both when the hon. gentleman was in and the present Government, as guardians of the rights of the Indians, have insisted that these reserves should be—not extravagant, but ample for the Indians, and for their prospective growth, because some of those tribes do increase. There were several reserves which at last had been agreed upon between the Dominion and the Provincial Governments—that they shall be satisfactory in area and position. The next thing is to survey them. There is a small staff of surveyors under Mr. O'Reilly, but they are a good deal behind in their work—that is, there are reserves agreed upon by the two Governments which have not yet been surveyed. I cannot at this moment say what the number of bands are without reserves. Unfortunately, there are several small bands which have been very badly used. The land has been sold without their knowing anything about it. They have no reserves, and we applied to the Provincial Government to buy them reserves in the locality in which these Indians have a right to expect reserves—where their habitat was. The Provincial Government said that they might be given reserves elsewhere, but, as the hon. gentleman knows, particularly in British Columbia, the Indians are very much attached to their locality, and object to being hustled away to a strange country, or far away from the bones of their ancestors. In one case the land was absolutely sold, and they were cut off practically from the rights of fishing, as well as from places for their habitations; and the Government came to Parliament, and Parliament sanctioned the purchase of a small reserve. The funds for this purchase were taken out of the Dominion Treasury, though I think they should not have been, but Parliament voted it. We hope to get it from the Provincial Government, but they see it in another light.

Mr. MILLS. I moved for some papers and correspondence connected with Indian difficulties early in the Session, and though the papers were promised they were not brought down. The hon. gentleman refers to Mr. O'Reilly being a good officer. I do not know anything about him, but if the hon. gentleman will look back to the correspondence which took place prior to British Columbia becoming a member of the Confederation, he will see that Mr. O'Reilly was one of the officers employed by the Local Government to cut down the reserves of the British Columbia Indians. The report made to me this winter—and I have many communications from that Province—is that the decisions as to reserves made by the commission between 1876 and 1880 had not been observed by the Local Government, although the understanding between the two Governments was that the decisions of the commission should be confirmed. I understand that in some cases that has not been done. There are some Indians immediately west of the Blackfeet reservation, on the opposite side of the mountains, whose reserve has been disposed of, to a large extent, to white set-

Mr. MILLS.

tlers. The Indians there have been in the habit of raising cattle and horses, and sending considerable numbers of them to the American market. The range of territory over which their stock has run has been divided up into lots and given up to the white settlers; fences have been put up, and a considerable number of Indian cattle and horses have starved to death, in the past winter, for want of their usual supply of food. I suppose the hon. gentleman has had correspondence with the Local Government on the subject; and it seems to me, looking at the Terms of the Union, whatever we might say with regard to the Indian title elsewhere, it was a matter of contract between the two Governments, that a reasonable extent of territory should be set apart for Indian reserves. If the two Governments could not agree, the matter was to be referred to the Colonial Secretary, but that arrangement was superseded by this commission, who were on the ground, and could deal directly with the matter. I do not know how far the Local Government have been disposed to carry out the understanding in good faith, but I should infer from their treatment of some of these Indians that not much respect has been shown for the occupation by the Indians of the land which they were holding. I think the least that could be done would be that a reasonable extent of territory, of which any band was in actual occupation, ought to be reserved for them, with the same strictness that an individual would be allowed to hold a reserve specially set apart by contract. I think the terms of the agreement between the two Governments are sufficient to enable the Indians to retain possession of the territory in which they were in actual occupation, although it may not have been officially set out as a reservation.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The arrangement, at the time of the Union was, that the Indians of British Columbia should be treated as liberally as they had been up to that time.

Mr. MILLS. There was more than that.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There may have been. I think the information given to the hon. gentleman is a little exaggerated. That is a fine country, both for grazing and agricultural purposes, and there may have been a few lots sold; but that there, in the centre of that large grazing country, cattle could have starved, I think can hardly be the case.

Mr. MILLS. I can assure the hon. gentleman that my information is strictly accurate, because I obtained it from a party on the ground.

Indians of Manitoba and the North-West Territories..... \$680,831.45

Mr. MILLS. Would the hon. gentleman state how much of the annuity vote applies to each treaty?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The memorandum I have got is that the increase of \$440 for annuities is to cover additional payments on the estimated natural increase of 1 per cent. of the Indian population. These are the annuities paid to the several bands of Manitoba. I have no memorandum of the annuities paid to each band. I do not think that would be very valuable information.

Mr. MILLS. No; except that the hon. gentleman, when on this side of the House, insisted on that information being given in detail, and formerly the Estimates were printed in that way. It makes this difference, that when the vote is taken in a lump the hon. gentleman can distribute it amongst the whole as he pleases. There is an advantage in having the distribution under each treaty. An Indian may be paid two or three times from appearing in different places, and having the children of, perhaps, some other Indian or belonging to some other band with him. In fact, it is easy to see