

among the Indians were dependent, like other poor, on the people living in the various Provinces. When the Government saw to the proper expenditure, their duties were at an end.

Mr. MCKAY said he thought that it would be for the benefit of the Department and the Indians of Colchester County, if the latter were placed under the agent at Picton, instead of under the agent at Halifax.

Mr. JONES (Halifax) said that, on the whole, he must say that the administration of Indian affairs, both under this and the late Government in Nova Scotia, had not exactly been successful; but they were now about making an arrangement by which each county would manage its own affairs in this regard, and he hoped that the system would be attended with most satisfactory results.

Mr. MITCHELL said that there was a considerable number of Indians in his county. The administration of these matters under the late and present Governments had been equally bad and very unsuccessful. He could see no change. The Indians of New Brunswick were not becoming enlightened. They were not getting the benefit of education. They were dwindling away, and becoming demoralized. The whole system, as far as the elevation of the character of the Indians was concerned, seemed to be a complete failure. Sickness appeared to be more prevalent among them than formerly. In a few years, unless something was done, he was afraid that they would disappear. Something might be done for these people, even with the small means which they had at their disposal. The Dominion had bought up the great North-West, and the money of the people in the Eastern Provinces had contributed to this purchase. As an enormous sum was being paid out for the Indians of the North-West, he thought that more liberality should be extended towards the Indians of the Eastern Provinces, with the view of preserving them, and, if possible, elevating their condition, which was most lamentable. The hon. the Minister of the Interior, being a philosopher, might endeavour to see what

philosophy would do, as regarded practical utility, towards the elevation of the poor creatures.

Vote agreed to.

154. Relief of the Indians in New Brunswick	\$4,500
155. Relief of the Indians in P.E.I.....	2,000

Mr. LANGEVIN wished to know how many Indians had taken advantage of the law passed for their enfranchisement.

Mr. MILLS: About forty.

Vote agreed to.

Indians of British Columbia.

156. {	Victoria Superintendency	\$18,240 00	}	\$36,561 00
	Fraser do	18,321 00		
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Mr. LANGEVIN wished to know how the sum voted last year had been expended.

Mr. MILLS said it was appropriated for the purposes of the Commission, a record of whose work would be found in the report by Mr. Sproat. Therein it was stated that the Commission had carried on their operations in British Columbia up to December, 1876, and since April 4th, last year, they had been engaged in the settlement of disputes between the Indians and white men, the former of whom alleged that the latter had encroached on lands which they held from time immemorial. The Local Government proposed that the Commission should continue until all the reservations in the vicinity of the White settlements were agreed upon, and that in future all matters affecting the Indians should be settled by an agent of the British Columbian Government. When the season closed, it was found that the Indians were indisposed to give up their reservations, and Mr. Sproat had been retained to act as Commissioner during the coming summer.

Mr. LANGEVIN said no better man than Mr. Sproat could be found to act in this capacity. If the Government could induce the Indians to leave these settlements at Victoria, it would be a great boon both to themselves and the white men there.

Vote agreed to.