

not make much headway before the close of the Session.

HON. MR. SCHULTZ—In reply to the last remark I may say that I will of course be in the hands of the Committee itself, if such a committee be struck. Most of them are gentlemen older in the Senate, and many of them older in years than myself, and I would in this, as in all other matters, defer to their opinion. It is quite true, as my hon. friend from St. Bonafice has said, that within easy reach of Ottawa—Montreal, for instance—we have a vast amount of evidence which can be collected, and from the heads of the Departments who have those matters in charge, and from gentlemen who have explored in that country, especially Professor Bell, who is now in the city, and others who are from the North-West, and gentlemen in this House, yet we really need other evidence from the North-West; still, in this matter, as in all others, I shall be in the hands of the Committee, and shall defer as a new member to those who are older in the Senate and older in years than myself.

In answer to the next speaker I may say that it is a matter of great regret that we may not have his name on the Committee. I unfortunately overlooked Mr. McClellan, and if the hon. gentleman from Amherst persists that his name be dropped I shall ask that the name of Mr. McClellan be substituted in his stead.

In reply to the gentleman from British Columbia, I may say that his question is based on a misconception of the facts. The increase in the number of Indians is not as great as he evidently thought it was. Treaty number 1 was made in 1871, as also treaty number 2. At the time of making the first payment on this treaty, sixteen years ago, there were 2316 persons paid; at the last payment there were 3315, an increase of one thousand. I was present at that treaty, and it was then thoroughly understood by the Indians, who stipulated for it, that members of their band, whose names they gave, and who, being near Winnipeg, we all knew, should be taken in as fast as they came from their hunting grounds and places where they had gone in the service of the Hudson Bay Company, so

that it should not be a matter of surprise that in sixteen years the increase should be as stated from natural causes and from the causes to which I referred.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I am sure the House has listened with great satisfaction to the valuable information and suggestions which we have had from the hon. Senator from Winnipeg. The facts which he states as to the resources which will be found in the North-West only confirm the opinion we have already formed on what we did know as to the immense resources and immense wealth of that country, and we are always glad to have those impressions confirmed from so high an authority as the hon. Senator from Winnipeg. The Government takes the greatest possible interest in the question to which the hon. gentleman's motion refers, that is to say, the condition of the Indians, the mode of sustaining them, the improvement of their condition, and, perhaps the most important element attendant on that subject, the inculcation of habits which will render it possible for them to avail themselves to the highest degree of the resources to which my hon. friend alludes, from which, if they had the provident habits of the whites, they would be able to maintain themselves without so large a reference to the means of support on which they now depend. I am very glad to hear his remarks on the possibility of this inquiry being made without much expense, although it is such an important subject that the element of expense should not be too closely considered. I am glad to say that the Government have no objection to the motion, and will be pleased to see it carried by the House.

THE SPEAKER—Has it been proposed that the name of Mr. McClellan shall be substituted for that of Mr. Dickey?

HON. MR. SCHULTZ—Yes, with the consent of the seconder.

The motion was agreed to.