

we have not enjoyed yet in British Columbia. Our position is a peculiar one. We have about 33,000 Indians there, who are essentially a part of our population, and the expenditure which is here mentioned as expended partly for their benefit has very largely to be devoted to administration and to looking after the Indians. If you take the North-West Territories, I find in the Estimates here there is pretty close upon half a million for the North-West Mounted Police. What are they for but to look after the Indians? We have got nothing of that sort in British Columbia. These agents, and those sent to assist them, act in pretty much the capacity and perform very similar functions to the North-West Mounted Police and the agents in other Provinces. The expenditure, as far as the Indians are concerned, is very small in the Province of British Columbia, and I reiterate the statement, that if the vote were considerably increased this discrepancy would not be so apparent.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The Minister was to state what the superintendents did.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The hon. gentleman will remember that British Columbia is an enormous country.

Mr. BAKER. Tremendous.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes, immense; and there is a large population of Indians. It has been laid out in very large districts, where agents have been appointed, whose duty it is to look after the Indians as the Indian Agents do elsewhere, to keep the peace among them, and, where they are settled on their reservations to act in every respect as an Indian Agent would in Ontario and Quebec. There is only one superintendent, Dr. Powell; but there are several agents, having their districts assigned to them. Some of them are exceedingly good officers. They keep peace among the Indians, they endeavour to stop the use of spirits, and they are really making themselves generally useful, as Indian Agents do. As I said awhile ago, I think instead of paying these large salaries that we have been doing ever since British Columbia joined us, we had better, by-and-bye, as the Indians settle on their different reserves, have farmers employed to act as agents, and have more of them, with a small sum of \$200 or \$300 added to the farmer's annual income, and have them settled among the Indians, or in the immediate vicinity. Our agents are very good men, on the whole; peace is being kept in that country, and the Indians are progressive, as you hear from the hon. gentleman from British Columbia.

Mr. MILLS. I apprehend that the progress the Indians have made in British Columbia has been due not so much to the efforts of the agents as to the growth of industry among the Indians.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Very likely. That is an additional reason for altering the system, reducing the salaries, and increasing the number of farm instructors. But all these expenses are not to be considered as so much subtracted from the sum voted for the Indians.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I am not necessarily condemning the system, but I merely call attention to what is a very patent fact, that the whole of this pretty large vote substantially goes to pay eight or nine gentlemen in British Columbia.

MANITOBA AND THE NORTH-WEST.

Annuities.....	\$173,460 00
Agricultural implements	10,398 22
Tools.....	1,917 54
Cattle.....	10,555 00
Seed grain.....	3,115 00
Ammunition, &c.....	4,439 50
Provisions (Annuity)	21,756 54
Supplies for destitute	287,046 10
Clothing	2,700 00

Schools	48,204 00
Surveys	18,000 00
Farm wages.....	22,700 00
do maintenance.....	5,600 00
Stout.....	2,000 00
General expenses	66,380 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I do not propose to detain the Committee very long just now, especially as the House is so thin; but I suppose the hon. gentleman will allow us to discuss this pretty fully on Concurrence, if occasion requires.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Certainly. I think the hon. gentleman is quite right. It is past one, and a thin House.

Mr. MILLS. The hon. gentleman knows that discussion on Concurrence is often difficult to obtain. Will the hon. gentleman say why the vote for annuities this year is \$24,000 less than last year? Has the number of Indians become less, or have the frauds that have been committed in two or three agencies been discovered?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There are various causes, which the hon. gentleman can quite understand. I am afraid there has been an excessive payment to the Indians that has gone on from the very beginning; frauds have been practised, and men have been paid twice. The Indians are now being very rapidly settled on the reserves. Great exertions will be made to get them settled this summer. There are some few flying parties, some broken bands, if I may say so, headed by men of bad character, who like to infest the frontier so as to cross over occasionally into the neighbouring country. There is a mutual system of foray going on, stealing horses, cattle, and that kind of thing. But we are getting them all pretty well to the north of the Pacific Railway, far from the frontier, and getting them settled on the reserves. The moment they are on the reserve the Indians can be identified, the heads of families can be known, and the expenditure can be brought within a reasonable compass.

Mr. MILLS. I would like to invite the attention of the Minister to some matters that I think of consequence, and upon which further information might be desirable than what is given in the Report. Among the things which I notice in the Report is, that there are 225 salaried officials in the employ of the Government, in connection with this Department, whose salaries amount to \$50,582.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That is not very much.

Mr. MILLS. It is very considerably more than it was a few years ago. In 1873, the same service was \$37,038; it is now, altogether, \$109,638. That is a considerable advance, with the same number of Indians to be provided for. Then there is the amount paid for farm instruction. I observe in the Report brought down that the cost of farm maintenance last year was \$80,840. I do not find anything in the Report as the result of that expenditure. A certain quantity of grain was produced in connection with the Indian service in the North-West; but these products were raised, not on Indian farms, but on Indian reservations. It would be an advantage to the Department if a statement was submitted showing the amount produced on each farm. The payment of fixed salaries to parties so far beyond the supervision of the Government is not, of course, calculated to make them labour to the best advantage. We were told, when in office, by the hon. gentleman, that we ought not to have expended money for the payment of Indians when their annuities were being handed them. Such payments were necessary in 1875-76-77 and 1878. The hon. gentleman stated that so soon as the Indians were placed on their reservations no such expenditure would be necessary. Yet we find that in 1878, \$28,500 were expended in that way, and no less than \$50,817 last year. So we have an expenditure which it was