

them better than strangers. That is the policy of the present Government, and Mr. Dewdney will carry it out. Now, it is quite true, as my hon. friend says, that you can never make an Indian an agriculturist. It is quite true that to civilise an Indian you must commence with the child. I hope that we shall have a system by which the children may be, as it were, withdrawn from the parents as much as possible, and brought under the influence of civilised Indians. But that cannot be done in a day. The adults are there; they must be fed and they must have grain to put in a crop for next season. I hope that hereafter, when we have more leisure, we may be able to devise a more scientific mode of Government for our Indian wards in the North-West.

MR. MILLS: Does the hon. gentleman expect to have one inspector for the whole of that country?

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: I have one inspector to visit them all, but, perhaps, not all in one season. Mr. Dewdney himself will visit one portion of the country, and the next season visit the other portion. Then there is the Indian Agent who has supervision over the farm instructors, and who will act with Mr. Dewdney.

MR. SCHULTZ: I know that one of the farm instructors, Mr. Scott, is a practical farmer, and has resided for over twenty years in that country. In addition to that he is a middle-aged man, a strict teetotaler and speaks the Indian language almost as fluently as English. I regard his appointment as one of the best that has been made. I agree with the hon. member for Provencher in the advisability of taking, as far as they can be got, people up there to act as farm instructors. I am glad of the assurance that this will be done, because it will go a long way towards preserving the state of peace and good feeling which now prevails among the Indians.

MR. ELLIOTT: I wish to make an observation regarding the criticisms of the hon. member for Bothwell on the subject of the appointment of Mr. Scott as Indian Farm Instructor. I know Mr. Scott well; and am personally aware of the fact that that gentleman was reared on a farm, that he was a thoroughly competent man, and that he was in every

sense of the word, an agriculturist. My high opinion of Mr. Scott's abilities has been borne out completely by the evidence already given by the Department, that one of the best and most practical farm instructors in the North-West was Mr. Scott himself. Mr. Sharon has also come in for a share of the adverse criticism of the hon. member for Bothwell, though—the hon. member for Bothwell stated the contrary—an agriculturist. He was brought up on a farm; he is, in every respect, a competent instructor; and, as report stated, he was getting along well with the Indians whom he is instructing in farming in the vicinity of Battleford. In my opinion, the Government acted wisely and judiciously in appointing officers to proceed to the North-West and teach the Indians how to raise food for their maintenance and support. In view of the disappearance of the buffalo, and the rapid strides which civilisation is making in that country, there can be no doubt whatever that, in a few years, the Indians, unless induced to follow the avocation of farming, will be left without the means of subsistence. The endeavour to teach them agriculture is, therefore, laudable; while the appointment of instructors, who, I understand, had no less than 640 acres fenced and ready for crop, is highly commendable.

Resolution read the second time and agreed to.

Resolutions 173 to 177 read the second time and agreed to.

Resolutions 265 to 269 (April 30) read the second time and agreed to.

On Resolution 270, Post Office, additional amount required, \$60,000,

MR. BLAKE: There is a Supplementary Estimate of \$60,000, and it turned out, after a good deal of discussion the other evening, that it was supposed to be composed of three items, one being merely a cross entry which is supposed to represent \$12,000. That leaves a balance of \$48,000. The hon. the Finance Minister said that was partly due to the Government having been disappointed in their expectations of making cheaper contracts than before; and as to the residue, that it was due to an increase in the railway mileage. We were promised information as to how much of this increase vote was due to