

impossible to induce parents to send their children to school unless he furnished them with food and clothing. He is about to abandon the situation as a hopeless undertaking, and therefore has tendered his resignation to the Mission. The chief received payment in 1881 for nine of a family, an increase of one daughter by birth over the previous year, according to the Agent's remark on the pay-sheets, whereas I am credibly informed that no such birth occurred, hence he was overpaid five dollars. In the ensuing fall, his youngest child, aged four years, died, reducing the number of his family to seven, whereas he is represented on the pay-sheet as having received payment for eight in 1882. Punheekzee-zicknaba, one of the councillors, having two wives, is represented on the pay-sheet as receiving annuity in 1881 for a family of eleven, including two infant children, whereas at the date of payment only one of these children was born."

Now here we find the natural result of breaking faith with the Indians.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is not breaking faith with the Indians. The Indians play these tricks continually in order to get more than they are entitled to.

Mr. FLEMING. That is the result of breaking faith with the Indians, that the Indians are induced to break faith with the Government. We find that the Indians, when the promises that are made to them are not fulfilled, resort to some means to make themselves square. When we find this state of things existing, when we find that Mr. Graham of Winnipeg reports that in a number of cases the Indians display less self-reliance than they did formerly, we are to some extent prepared for the large increase that has taken place in this item for some years past. In 1877, \$250,796 were expended on the Indians of Manitoba and the North-West, of which \$10,000 was for provisions. In 1878, \$333,503.68 were expended, of which \$29,400 was for provisions. In 1879, \$403,418.21 were expended, of which \$53,771.39 was for provisions. In 1880 the expenditure was \$615,041.65, of which \$157,572.22 was for provisions. In 1881 the expenditure was \$726,575.77, of which \$284,482.52 was for provisions; in 1882 the expenditure had grown to \$1,090,796.90, of which \$523,842.12 was for provisions; in 1883 the expenditure, with the Supplementary Estimates, is \$1,030,499.52, of which \$337,965.27 was for provisions; and this year it is proposed to expend \$791,064.67, including \$394,014.68 for provisions. These figures are the natural sequences of the mode in which the agents of the Government have carried on its policy. They are the natural sequences of the breach of the promises made to the Indians. They are, to a large extent, due, it is true, to the non-appearance of the buffalo in that country, but they are also, to a large extent, the natural consequence of the way in which the faith of the Government has been kept with the various bands of the North-West. If a more strict superintendency is not exercised over the carrying out of the promises, under the various treaties, to the Indians, I do not see how the promise of the hon. Minister, that these appropriations in a short time can be reduced, will be carried out. There should be a more strict investigation of the way in which the contractors, or their agents, supply these implements and goods to the Indian tribes. I have shown that the contractors fail to send supplies when they ought to send them and have sent large quantities to places where they were never required, and all these things enter into the large expenditure we are called upon to vote. I do not say the sum ought not to be voted if it is necessary to secure the peace of the North-West, but I do say that this large sum ought to be wisely expended, that good faith ought to be kept with the various Indian tribes, that the treaties ought to be faithfully carried out, and that where promises are made to the Indians the utmost care should be taken that those promises are fulfilled.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I go one step further than my hon. friend who has just spoken.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Take care it is not a *faux pas*.

Mr. CASGRAIN. There have been many *faux pas* made in this matter. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will be glad to know my views. However good may be the policy of the Government and its intentions, they cannot go against the natural law relating to Indians on this continent, and that is, that the Indian race is becoming gradually extinct as the white race advances. That is a broad fact. Another broad fact is, that you have not been able to bring one single Indian to the state of civilization reached by the white man. The experiment has been tried ever since the beginning of the colony, and I know of only one Indian who ever became thoroughly civilized, and that was a man by the name of Vincent, who has a mixture of white blood in his veins, and counts his descent from three or four generations. He reached such a stage of education as to go into Orders. I lay down as a principle, which cannot be controverted, that this race is becoming rapidly extinct, and we are wasting an enormous expenditure to attain an object which will never be attained, that is, to civilize these Indians. I have seen myself, at Garden River, the experiment tried by Catholic and Protestant missionaries. A small plot had been cultivated and set out in garden lots, and small houses had been built near them for the Indians, but instead of living in these houses, they built themselves, in front of the houses, small bark wigwams, and there they lived.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Those were their country houses.

Mr. CASGRAIN. As to their plots there was not a root to be found in any of them.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. You might find some briar roots.

Mr. CASGRAIN. I give this as an instance of the inaptitude of the Indians to enter into civilized life. Now, Sir, I will make an exception in favor of the British Columbia Indians. They are a self-sustaining race, because they have had large fields in which to hunt buffalo, and have been obliged to resort to fishing in order to supply themselves with the necessaries of life. This gave them sedentary habits, and led them to cultivate the soil. But as to Indians of the North-West Territory, they are a doomed race, and it is only a question of how soon they will disappear. This race is extremely jealous, and they do not look to the Government employes that are bound to aid them, but, as they say, they look to the Great Mother on the other side to protect them. Of course, I do not put on the shoulders of the hon. Minister all the responsibility of the misdeeds in his Department, as he cannot know all that is going on at such a distance. But the Indians believe themselves so much neglected that, in their own primitive mode of speech, they call the head of the Indian Department, "Old To-morrow," because they never get what they want. That will give the hon. gentleman an idea of what is going on there; the name characterizes the thing completely. There is no denying the fact that in many of these outposts, agents of the Government speculate on the Indians, and often enormous sums of money voted for their assistance, by no means all goes to the Indians. The hon. gentleman asks for \$60,000 additional for supplies for destitute Indians. How many destitute Indians are there? This is to me a plain admission that they had not enough last year, and that you are obliged to keep them alive. We are required to expend this year, \$355,000 for the North-West Indians alone, and what this House would very much like to know is, how many Indians will be benefited by that sum?

Mr. CHARLTON. I find in an account here this item: "On the 28th June, 1881, Benjamin Warwick, of Fort Ellis, ten days, self and team, ploughing and harrowing, \$7 per day." Is not that rather a high price for a man and team?