

character rather than one in which they cannot keep water from freezing, one in which the floors are worn out and the windows are falling out of the building, and where there ought to be 150 or 175 pupils. That is why I am asking for this money. I am not asking it for the purpose of building elaborate establishments and putting in elaborate equipment. What is proposed is to have a reasonable kind

of a building with a very modest 9 p.m. equipment in order that this work may be carried on. If we cannot make any progress in assisting the Indians in Canada through a reasonably educational method, I am afraid that the red man will deteriorate, and that he will be a bigger burden in the way of maintenance upon the people of Canada than he will by trying to make him sustain himself by this method.

Mr. KNOX: In following this subject a little further I would like to say that I have in mind one institution to which I might refer for a few minutes without getting away from the subject. I refer to the boarding school at Duck Lake, where not only educational work is carried on, but agricultural education is given in connection with it. It is under Father Delmas, who is doing exceptionally good work. I was struck by the remarks of the hon. member for Cariboo (Mr. McBride) a little while ago when he spoke about the good results that had followed a visit from the minister and his deputy last summer, and I would like to impress on the minister the necessity of paying a visit to the Duck Lake institution. I feel sure if he went there some provision would be made for better buildings in that location. The buildings there are not adequate for the work that is being done. They are out of date and getting out of repair in a great many ways. It was hoped that something would be done this year but I understand it is impossible to give the matter any attention just at present. I would like some assurance from the minister that this point will be kept in view for the future and that we may look forward to something being done there.

Mr. TOLMIE: Can the minister tell the committee what is being done in the way of stimulating the Indians in the production of beef cattle on the plains?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Unfortunately the Indians on the plains have not as many cattle as they had ten or twelve years ago.

Mr. TOLMIE: Does the minister know the reason?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): No, but they had some very bad seasons, and for some reason or other they do not appear to have as many cattle as they formerly had. I think we should endeavour to change that condition. Instructions are given to the farm instructors and agents on the reserves to encourage as much as possible the production of live stock, because it seems to me we should not have to buy beef to maintain the Indians upon the plains. We should not have to furnish beef particularly to bands located where there is plenty of grass in a good grass country. The Indian can very well be taught to take care of his stock. He is perhaps improvident and all the rest of it, but it is part of the business of the agent and farm instructor located on the reserve to assist him in that respect.

Mr. TOLMIE: Is the government doing anything to improve the quality of cattle? What is the government doing in the way of providing winter feed, hay and so on? Is the pit silo used in that country at all?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): No, we have not had to resort to a pit silo. The Blood reserves in the West have always had plenty of grass and hay to maintain stock during the winter. Indeed they have sold great quantities of hay during the winter, instead of having the stock consume it. But every year it has been the policy of the department to purchase pure-bred bulls for distribution on these reserves where they are required.

Mr. TOLMIE: What prices has the government to pay in the purchase of these bulls?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): We have to buy them in competition at the sales.

Mr. TOLMIE: There is no limit as to price.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): We have to pay what the other buyers have to pay.

Mr. FORKE: Will the minister explain that item of \$8,145 for the Sioux Indians? Nothing is stated except the word "Sioux".

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): This is a large number of small items. However I may say in reply to my hon. friend for Prince Albert (Mr. Knox) that we have had many representations made with regard to the Duck Lake school. We know it is in rather a serious condition, but it will probably take ten years to catch up with the construction and improvement of the various schools throughout Canada for Indian education, and we will attend to those just as fast as we can afford to do so.