

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I fancy not.

Mr. CHARLTON. I find another item. On the 28th of May, the same year, C. Henderson, Victoria, N.W.T., four days' ploughing and harrowing with his own team, \$1.50 per day.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is a different part of the country altogether.

Mr. CHARLTON. If one man is worth \$1.50, the other ought not to be worth \$7. There ought to be a little supervision exercised in these matters. In another account it appears one Whitcher is feeding Indians on turnips instead of flour. Is that considered good economy?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. When flour gives out, they give them turnips, and when the turnips give out, we must give them grass. Food continually runs out there. Hitherto, all the caution of all the agents, cannot prevent an occasional excess at one point or a deficiency of food at another point. The Indians are migrators, and we cannot avoid that. Then the hon. gentleman knows that the great trouble there is transport.

Mr. CHARLTON. II. Rennie, Fort Walsh, freighting, 8 cts. a lb. What is the distance between Fort Walsh and Q'l'Appelle?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am told about 400 miles.

Mr. CHARLTON. Eight dollars a hundred seems to be an excessive rate.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is almost impossible to get transport there at this moment. The immigrants going in, and the large surveying parties, will give anything for teams, and it is very difficult to get transport at any price.

Mr. CHARLTON. Bacon at Edmonton, procured from Hudson's Bay Company, 25,000 lbs., at 24 cts. a lb. Is not that rather a heavy price for bacon?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It takes the whole season to get it there up the Saskatchewan.

Mr. CHARLTON. Flour \$20 a barrel, bacon 30 cts. a lb.; these are high prices. Then, 12th November, 1881, South Branch, B. Bozer, threshing 889 bushels of grain, 14 cts. a bushel. That is about five times the price paid in Ontario. These are specimens of charges that I find in the accounts. These may be all right—I presume they are—but I am glad, in the interest of the taxpayers, that we are going to have that country penetrated by a railroad, and the rates of freight will be very much reduced. Feeding Indians with bacon at 30 cts. a lb. and flour at \$20 a barrel, is an expensive mode of keeping Indians. In the United States it is found that the agents who had charge of these matters robbed, with perfect impartiality, the Government on the one hand, and the Indians on the other. Great abuses grew up in that country, that have not been eradicated yet, that lead to Indian wars, and to great sufferings on the part of the Indians. In this respect the experience of that country is one that we might very well profit by, and it strikes me, in looking over these accounts, that possibly we are drifting into the same state of things—not to so great an extent—there are not such glaring abuses, but there are circumstances that require careful supervision. I produce these accounts for the purpose of directing the attention of the Minister to these matters, with the suggestion that it may be necessary to have greater care and closer supervision than in the past.

Mr. WATSON. I would like to call the attention of the First Minister to one particular band of Indians, called the Swan Lake band. These Indians have been a great source of annoyance to quite a number of settlers in my county. They are supposed to live on their reserve at Swan Lake, but the chief claims that the Government have not carried

Mr. CHARLTON.

out their contract according to treaty and delivered supplies at the reserve, and consequently they have refused to remain there and have come back to the camping ground on the banks of the Assiniboine River at what is called Hamilton's Crossing. They have been a great source of annoyance to settlers in that locality on account of their habit of turning their ponies loose, breaking down the fences and burning the rails, and allowing their ponies to stray into the fields and destroy the grain. Last summer there was very nearly bloodshed between an Indian and a settler. The Indian claimed the right to live there because it was an old reserve. It was a reserve under the first treaty, but by a subsequent treaty made by Governor Morris, the Swan Lake reserve was set aside. The chief Yellow Quill complains that the farm instructor sent up was not a practical man, and could not show them how to proceed. The chief is anxious to know how to cultivate the soil, and he declared it was because the Government official could not instruct them at Swan Lake that he went back to the old reserve. He claims the Indian gardens which are on the school section at Hamilton's Crossing. The Indians of this band are a fine lot of men, although they are a little troublesome, and Chief Yellow Quill is a finely-proportioned man, and is reputed to be an honorable man, although some of his band took possession of supplies that were going out to other Indians some time ago. Inspector McColl recommends the Government to set aside the school section and give this to the Indians in order to pacify them. On behalf of the settlers in the locality I would strongly protest against this course, because it is a great source of trouble to have Indians settled on a school section. They are rather a nuisance among settlers. I hope the Minister will endeavor to have Yellow Quill and his band placed on their reserve, because, so long as they remain at Hamilton's Crossing they will be an annoyance to settlers. If they should continue to remain there they will quarrel with the white men, and there will be trouble and perhaps bloodshed. I hope the matter will be attended to.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The matter will be attended to. The hon. member has read Mr. McColl's report, and he will remember that he enters very fully into the matter. The Indians refused to go on their reserve and went to Hamilton's Crossing. The hon. member (Mr. Watson) spoke of what he knew, and he knows all about it; but the hon. member who preceded him spoke from the Blue-books, not having the slightest idea of the difficulties which occur in that country. The Indians are well satisfied on the whole, and they should be well satisfied. The only thing the House has specially to consider is the large expenditure made on food for the Indians. Instead of breaking faith with them we have kept faith with them, and they have received large supplies. It is well known that, although the Indians agreed to go on their reserves, they have not gone in many cases. When they go on their reserves they get their cattle, implements and grain; but until they are on their reserves they eat the grain, kill the cattle and sell the ploughs, if supplied with them. It is quite impossible, from the difficulties of transportation in that country, that you can always have a given quantity of goods delivered on a particular day. The Hudson's Bay Company, which fulfil their contracts as faithfully as they can, have, from the breaking down of their steamer, and from the lowness of the water in the Saskatchewan, been two seasons behind, one season certainly. Even Baker & Co., who have had even more experience than the Hudson's Bay Company, have similarly failed, either from climatic causes or from means of transport failing them, to perform their contract; and it must be remembered that contracts cannot be performed in that country as a retail grocer can perform them here, if you buy a pound of tea, and order him to send it home by six o'clock. The report quoted by hon. gentlemen opposite, shows the