

Bill (No. 52) respecting the Bank of Vancouver.—Mr. Cowan.

Bill (No. 53) respecting the Walkerton and Lucknow Railway Company.—Mr. Donnelly.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 9) respecting the Brandon Transfer Railway Company.—Mr. Turriff.

Bill (No. 12) respecting the Collingwood Southern Railway Company.—Mr. Pardee.

Bill (No. 14) respecting the Huron and Ontario Railway Company.—Mr. Pardee.

SUPPLY.

House in Committee of Supply.

Indian schools, maritime provinces, Ontario and Quebec, \$73,225.

Mr. SPROULE. Before six o'clock I asked the minister to furnish us with information as to the number of day schools, the number of pupils attending these schools, the location of these schools; the number of the church schools, the number of pupils attending these schools, and the location of these schools.

Hon. FRANK OLIVER (Minister of the Interior). At page 60 of the annual report of the department the information is given out that out of 315 schools 49 are undenominational, 111 Roman Catholics, 93 Church of England, 44 Methodist, 16 Presbyterian, and 2 Salvation Army.

Mr. SPROULE. I was trying to get information as to whether the denominational schools are more successful in civilizing the Indian than what might be called public or secular schools.

Mr. OLIVER. I will have collated from the annual report the information in the form in which the hon. gentleman asks for it.

Surveys, \$10,000.

Mr. SPROULE. Are you doing any survey work on the Indian land?

Mr. OLIVER. This is for surveys of reserves under the new treaty in the northern part of New Ontario. We intend also to pay the cost of subdividing small Indian reserves and resurveying old reserves where the land marks have become obliterated and when the Indians interested have no funds of their own.

Mr. SPROULE. Are you carrying on any surveys in the islands of the Georgian bay?

Mr. OLIVER. No, but we had a revaluation made last year.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. Who is the surveyor?

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Sing was the surveyor; the work was finished three years ago.

Mr. W. R. SMYTH. Is it the intention of the department to continue leasing or selling the timber on the Indian lands?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes.

Mr. W. R. SMYTH. Has the department issued a letter to certain parties in my riding stating that the department would discontinue allowing them to cut timber. I refer to the Indian lands near Cutler on the Sault Branch in the district of Algoma?

Mr. OLIVER. I am unable to reply at the moment. Speaking generally, we intend to sell the right to cut timber on the Indian lands from time to time as it may be in the interests of the Indians to do so.

Mr. W. R. SMYTH. There is a firm in the district of Algoma which heretofore has had the privilege of cutting timber on the Indian lands on the reserve near the village of Cutler, and I saw a letter written by some official in the department informing them that that right would be discontinued. I may say that the gentleman to whom I refer has been heretofore a very strong Liberal, but in his wisdom he saw fit to help me to be elected to this House, and immediately after the elections were over he got a notice from the department that permission to continue cutting timber on this reserve would be discontinued. When this notice was received, the Indians, as I understand, got up a petition asking the government to continue the right to this gentleman to cut the timber. I wish to ask the minister if he has ever given instructions to any of his officers to send such a letter?

Mr. OLIVER. I have no recollection of any sale of that kind, and would have to look over the records before I could give a definite reply. There are many circumstances in which it would be quite proper to give these instructions, but I can hardly understand how any firm would have a standing license to cut timber on any land.

Mr. SMYTH. Their right to cut this timber has always been admitted heretofore. Would that come before the minister or the deputy minister of the Indian Department?

Mr. OLIVER. It would depend on the circumstances. If it were a matter of detail, it would come before the deputy, but if it were a matter of policy it would come before me. I cannot say which it was without knowing the facts.

Mr. SMYTH. You are not in a position to say that notice has been given by the department to this firm that their license will be cancelled on April 31 of this year?

Mr. OLIVER. I could not just now, but will be able when I have the opportunity to refer to all the files. There will be an opportunity later on.