

SUPPLY.

The House went into Committee of Supply, Mr. SCATCERD in the chair.

The estimates for the Indians were first taken up.

On item \$2,200 for the Indians of Quebec.

Mr. JONES (Leeds) asked why there was an increase of \$950 over the appropriation of last year.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD regretted that the Indians of Quebec were not so well situated as the Indians of Ontario. Their lands were not so good, and they were not realizing anything like fair prices from them. They were, generally speaking, in very poor circumstances indeed, and this increase was to supply their real wants.

The item passed.

Items 150 and 151 were passed without discussion.

On item \$4,500 for the Indians of New Brunswick,

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL asked the Minister of the Interior if he could give the relative number of Indians in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It appeared to him there was a large number of Indians in New Brunswick, and this sum was not sufficient to meet their wants.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD said he had not the statistics by him that were asked for. Last year the Government had increased the vote for the Indians in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and as they were not increasing fast in numbers this estimate might be considered fair now. He believed there was a larger number of Indians in Nova Scotia than in New Brunswick, but in the latter province a good deal of the money that should have gone to the Indians had been lavished on two officials. He was thinking of reducing their salaries and giving more of the appropriation to the Indians.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL doubted the correctness of the hon. gentleman's information. With reference to the two officials the hon. gentleman was entirely misinformed. They discharged their duties very efficiently. He (Mr. MITCHELL) thought there had not been sufficient attention given to these unfortunate people, and his object in rising now was to ask the Minister of the Interior to increase this appropriation for

the purpose of relieving the distress which prevailed this winter among them. It would be much better if the hon. gentleman would turn his attention to relieving these unfortunate Indians, than attacking an Administration that had passed away.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD said the Indians in some parts of the Province had funds of their own. They had timber lands and received a revenue from them, over and above this Parliamentary grant. This was not the case in Nova Scotia, where the Indians had no funds or lands, and in this respect were less favourably situated than those of New Brunswick. The hon. gentleman was correct in saying that there had been some hardship among them this winter in consequence of the great depth of the snow, but this was an exceptional year.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL was not prepared to assert positively, but his belief was that the funds derived from the lands owned by the Indians of New Brunswick went into the Public Treasury out of which this vote was taken. This was, no doubt, a very hard winter and he hoped the Government would aid the Indians who were dying from cold and starvation.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD said the Indian funds did not go into the General Treasury, but were kept for their own benefit. With regard to the distress among the Indians in New Brunswick it was not at all general, and as there was some of last years' appropriation, still on hand, he could see no necessity of increasing the vote this year.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL said what he meant was that the Indians of New Brunswick, though they held lands and were more numerous than those of Nova Scotia received only \$4,500—no more than the Indians of Nova Scotia, who were fewer in number and who had comparatively no lands. He did not object to the amount given to the Indians of Nova Scotia; what he did say was, that this appropriation was not enough for the Indians of New Brunswick, who were in great distress, and could scarcely keep themselves from perishing. He hoped that the Minister of the Interior would take steps to relieve their distress.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD said the Government could not be supposed to feed and clothe all the Indians. These appropriations were