

there who is not understood by them. I am informed that in several cases when the Indians had dealings with the department they had to go to Mr. Perillard, to have their claims translated, and to come here on their behalf. It is impossible to negotiate with the Indians satisfactorily with such a man as Mr. Bertrand. I submit to this House and to the minister that, in the interests of the Indians at Oka, the man who is living there, who has been there about fifty years, speaks their language, knows their needs, and knows them personally, should be appointed as agent there. The agent of course should be familiar with their language, and the man at present in the position is not competent to deal with their affairs in that locality; and should be replaced for the best interests of interested parties. The request made by these Indians should, I submit, be looked into very thoroughly and be given careful consideration by the minister and his department.

Item agreed to.

Indians—Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and North West Territories, \$661,092.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): There is a total increase of \$74,282. One item of increase is hospitals, medical attendance and medicine.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Why?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The net increase is \$34,810, which is accounted for as follows: Grant to the Dynevor Hospital, increased from \$1 to \$1.25 per patient per day.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Does the minister mean to say that as the cost of living goes down, the grant for medical attendance and medicine goes up?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Not exactly; the question is not one of the cost of living; it is a question of medical attention given to the Indians. I cannot say as to the future, but I understand that there has been a persistent request from those hospitals for increased grants for medical attention while Indians are inmates of the hospitals.

Mr. MEIGHEN: There always will be; but the fact is that now that the cost of attention and everything else is going down, the minister is yielding to these demands and letting the cost of attendance to the Indians go up. We have always allowed so much a day, why should this time be seized to increase that allowance?

[Mr. Ethier.]

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I presume my right hon. friend will agree that hospital expenses seem to be continually increasing, and I would personally think it rather a favourable arrangement, although I am speaking without knowledge as to the actual facts in this matter. Speaking without positive information, I think \$1 per day would not pay full compensation for attendance upon an individual in the hospital, as I think my right hon. friend will agree. I understand that this hospital is maintained by private individuals. Perhaps I should not make the assertion, but I think that we have been trying to get off rather cheaply with the Indians who are wards of the Government. On a very superficial examination, I think that we have been delegating the care of the Indians very largely to private individuals and church organizations, when it seems to me that the responsibility is on the Canadian people. I am not suggesting radical increases, but I think, as I say, on a somewhat superficial examination, that we must increase some of the expenditures in connection with Indian affairs.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Certainly we employ and co-operate with church organizations and charitable institutions, and the Indians will never be properly taken care of without that co-operation. Those are the organizations that can do the work best, as time has proved and as history has shown, and we shall have to continue to co-operate with them. The minister's present contention may be stated in just so many words, that, in this work, the late Government carried its economy to the point of penuriousness.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I would be inclined to say that perhaps that is true; my observations would lead me to say that. I say that in no critical mood; I agree with my right hon. friend that this work can best be done by the organizations that are already doing it; but I think, in fairness to the organizations and private individuals, we shall, perhaps, be called upon to be a little more generous in our dealings with these various organizations.

Mr. SHAW: What provision, if any, is made for medical attention to the Indians on the Stony Indian reserve at Morley, Alberta? I may be misinformed, but I understand that no hospital provision is made at the reserve and that occasionally some medical practitioner comes from some particular place and makes a cursory exam-