

Supply—Indian Affairs

These negotiations were unsuccessful, and the Indian department have now instituted proceedings in the exchequer court of Canada asking for cancellation of this lease.

Previous to the issue of this writ, the Indian commissioner at Regina wrote me, stating that the Indians were dissatisfied with the present lease, and that he thought a representative from his department and the town of Carlyle should meet and discuss the situation with a view to settling the differences. I replied immediately to the effect that the town of Carlyle would be very pleased to meet himself or his representative and he then wrote stating that he would arrange a meeting.

After the writ was issued the matter was fully discussed by the council, and they were of the opinion that a town such as ours should not be expected to carry on an expensive lawsuit with the government. Consequently the town solicitor and myself interviewed the department's solicitor, and he agreed to write to his clients explaining that the town was quite willing to enter into negotiations with the department, and the action still stands in that position, with the exception that they have asked us to file our defense, and this means that we are already becoming involved in legal expenses that the town cannot afford.

I would again impress upon the minister and the committee the fact that for approximately twenty years the Indians were to all intents and purposes satisfied with the lease. But someone, who apparently had a great interest in the Indians, persuaded them that they were not getting sufficient money. The town of Carlyle has spent a considerable sum developing that summer resort and it is very unfair to put them to a great deal of expense at this time in connection with that lease.

Mr. McINTOSH: I was waiting to see whether the minister would reply to the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. McKenzie), but if he is not going to do so I have something to say in connection with what we were discussing before recess. I understand that the situation in connection with the flour mills of the Battlefords, in respect to the needs in a flour way of the Indians in the northwestern part of Saskatchewan, is this. If you are on the patronage list for the riding, if the milling organization is on the constituency patronage list, it can compete for this business and tender. If it is not on the patronage list for either riding, it cannot do so. Is that the position? I should like the minister to say.

Mr. MURPHY: That is not correct.

Mr. McINTOSH: If that is not the position, will the minister define exactly the situation in both ridings. There is a mill in each riding and certainly each mill ought to have an opportunity to tender on departmental business. As I understood the state-
[Mr. R. McKenzie.]

ment of the minister before recess, it was that the mill in Battleford was not allowed to tender. It was not on the list, and that list must be the patronage list. What kind of business is that for a department to carry on?

Mr. BENNETT: Just what was going on in the last ten years.

Mr. McINTOSH: If the Prime Minister makes that statement will he bring forward a specific example to prove it?

Mr. BENNETT: Calgary.

Mr. McINTOSH: Name the man and the organization.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

An hon. MEMBER: Hundreds of them.

Mr. VALLANCE: I may tell the Prime Minister that that statement is hardly true, because in the Battlefords—

Mr. McINTOSH: It is not true.

Mr. VALLANCE:—the Bishop Milling Company was supplying a portion of the flour prior to the coming into office of the previous government. They did not tender during the life of the last government and they were not asked this year to tender. They inquired as to why they had not been asked to tender and they were politely told, maybe properly so, that their name had not been handed to the purchasing agent so that he could ask for tenders.

Mr. MURPHY: The hon. member for North Battleford (Mr. McIntosh) asked if only certain people in these ridings were allowed to tender, and I answered, no. We are asking for quotations from the different flour mills throughout Canada. The mills in Winnipeg, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon or wherever they may be situated are asked to tender. As to whether or not there are patronage lists, the hon. member seems to have quite a knowledge in that regard.

Mr. McINTOSH: We are seeing it every day.

Mr. MURPHY: There is a list of names in the department from which they were asked to request tenders. It may be called a patronage list or whatever hon. members want to call it.

Mr. VALLANCE: Let us call it that, because that is what it is.

Mr. MURPHY: I will take the hon. member's word for it, because he seems to know.

Mr. McINTOSH: No hon. member knows better than the minister.