

the reservation altogether, and invariably, as he was informed—and he believed that he was informed correctly—when any of them desired to do so, the improvements were valued and paid for. These valuations reached occasionally from \$8 to \$9 per acre, but generally varied from \$5 to \$6 per acre. The average would be somewhere between \$5 and \$8, which the priests, who exercised surveillance over this property, paid to the Indians, who would thereupon lease the reservation and take up their residence elsewhere. It would appear, therefore, that up to the time when this difficulty arose, there was no further idea of territorial ownership on the part of the Indians than what was implied by ownership and the improvements made on the soil. This seemed to have been the position from all the investigations he had made personally; and it was pure nonsense to say that this Government had in the past or now any power to press a settlement. They had done everything in their power to obtain a settlement, and he believed that if the Government proposal had been accepted three years ago, it would have been far better for the Indians, and it would be far better to accept this settlement now; but, as long as the Indians committed themselves into the hands of other people, who thought different from the Government, and who might have reasons with which the Government were unacquainted for this, and whose advice the Indians followed, it was evidently impossible for the Government to come to such terms with the gentlemen of the Seminary as would enable them to effect a settlement. As soon as the Indians were prepared to leave the whole matter in the hands of the Government they would undertake to endeavour to effect the best settlement possible, and he had no doubt that they could do this if they were let alone.

Vote agreed to.

152 Purchase of blankets for aged and infirm Indians of Ontario and Quebec	\$1,600
153 Indians of Nova Scotia, relief, etc.	4,500

MR. MCKAY (Colchester): Has an agent been appointed for District No.

MR. MACKENZIE.

3, in place of Mr. Davey, who, I think, has resigned?

MR. MILLS: The subject is at present under consideration.

MR. MCKAY said that owing to the absence of an agent, a great deal of inconvenience was incurred. Several men who had attended sick Indians, found a great deal of trouble in getting their bills settled, and the Indians themselves went to other agencies trying to get supplies and blankets. Several delegations, and, in fact, he believed the whole tribe in his county, had waited upon him before he left home, in this connection. He had made application to the hon. the Minister of the Interior for assistance, and \$40 were granted for this purpose. This was a very small sum. A number of these Indians were lying within the limits of the town, and were dependent entirely on charity, putting the town to considerable expense.

MR. MILLS said that the fund in question was very limited. The Government did not hold itself responsible for the support of the Indians any more than for any other portion of the population, though they had power of surveillance over the Indians under the British North America Act. If the Indians were enfranchised their control would be at an end, and these persons would then be under the charge of the Local Government in every particular, as any other portion of the population. At Confederation certain funds were taken over from the Provincial Government, and they had endeavoured, as far as possible, to confine the Indian appropriation to what it was at the time of Confederation. In Ontario lands of the Province, as they were set out for settlement, were surrendered by the Indians, and certain reserves and compensations were given them; and the Indian fund of Ontario and Quebec, which amounted to something like three millions of dollars, was created in this way, and a lapsed balance of statutory or other appropriations. The whole fund at their disposal for Nova Scotia, was \$4,500, and they used this money in the way they thought would be most serviceable to the Indians. Aid must of course be given from legal sources, and the poor