

quently, to know a great deal about British Columbia. No doubt he will be able to give the information I require.

Mr. McNEILL. I only wish to explain what I am afraid I did not sufficiently explain a few moments ago, namely, that there are two distinct classes of persons to which I was referring. One class is composed of the actual settlers, as to whom I received the assurance that their cases would be judged on their individual merits; the other class is that of people who are not actual settlers in the country, in the accepted sense of the term, but are men who have paid large sums of money to third parties for lands for the purpose of cutting timber on them, and who have offered their money to the Department for the deeds of these lands, at the suggestion of the agent representing the Department in that neighbourhood, but have had the money refused and their lots cancelled. One of them, I know, now stands in the position of being liable to lose \$2,000, owing to the representations made and the course now pursued. All that I ask is that such cases as these will be dealt with on their merits, as well as the case of the actual settlers, to which the hon. gentleman has referred.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No doubt.

Mr. McNEILL. That is all right.

Mr. GORDON. I desire to make a remark with reference to the general benefits the Indians are supposed to derive from this fund in British Columbia, so far as it has come under my observation. I will cite one case of extreme hardship. For instance, there was an Indian shot at Nanaimo, by accident I think, last summer, and application was made to the Superintendent for relief for that Indian, and it was denied him, simply because he was not living on his reservation. At the same time, it was publicly stated in the newspapers of the Province that other Indians who frequented Victoria, particularly the Indian women who frequent Victoria, very often, it is asserted, for anything but proper purposes, are in the habit of getting aid from the superintendent in the way of medicine without question. It is a matter of public notoriety there, and I am satisfied that if the Department becomes aware of the facts, and I think it is right they should, any little differences of that kind will be remedied. In the district of Cowichan, there is a gentleman who has an application before the Department for redress. He purchased land from the Provincial Government some fourteen years ago. He paid for his land, received his Crown grant, but the Indians have held the land ever since and will not give it up, and when he applies to the Provincial authorities they say they cannot deal with the Indians, who are under the charge of the Dominion Government, and the poor man has been kept out of his property all these years. He has not the means to carry it to the courts.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. What is his name?

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Dodds.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I know his case.

Mr. GORDON. The case is before you now, I think.

Mr. MILLS. That is an old case.

Mr. GORDON. Cases of that kind should be attended to, so as to show the Indians that where there is authority it will be exercised, and to teach them to obey that authority. I think there is nothing worse for an Indian than to understand that the law does not apply to him the same as anyone else. With regard to the duties of these different agents, I am afraid that the Indians do not get the full benefit of the money that is voted, but I have no doubt the hon. gentleman at the head of the Department will look into the matter and effect the necessary remedies.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria). The hon. member for South Huron (Sir Richard Cartwright) seems to think that Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

the whole of this vote ought to be spent in beef and flour, tobacco, tea, sugar, oatmeal and religious books, and articles of that nature. The only fault I have to find with the vote is that it ought to be three times the amount. Then the amount spent in salaries would compare much more favourably with the total expenditure.

Mr. MILLS. The hon. gentleman does not exactly apprehend the position in which this appropriation for the Indians of British Columbia stands, as compared with the Indians of some of the other Provinces. I believe British Columbia never secured the surrender of the Indian title; on the contrary, when an attempt was made on the part of the Government to locate the Indians, very serious objection was made by the Government of British Columbia to allowing them any reservation unless it was purchased for them by the Dominion. In the Province of Ontario—and it is precisely the same in the Province of Manitoba and throughout the North-West Territory—the Indians were recognized as having a certain right of occupation in the soil, and the white population were not allowed to go into possession until that right was extinguished. The moneys which have arisen from the extinguishment of that right have become an Indian fund, and the Indians are largely provided for out of that fund. The hon. gentleman will see, by looking at this vote, that the appropriation made to British Columbia is very much larger than that made to Ontario and Quebec, taken together; so that we are in fact charging the Dominion of Canada—the older Provinces, that have already provided for their Indians in another way—with a large portion of the expense of providing for the Indians of British Columbia. I have no doubt whatever that this Committee would be willing to appropriate a much larger amount for the benefit of the Indians of British Columbia, if the Government or the people of British Columbia were to place at the disposal of the Government here a fund, in proportion to the number of Indians or the extent of their territory, as large as the Province of Ontario or the North-West Territories have placed at the disposal of the Government. When British Columbia came into Confederation, I believe there was very little being expended upon the Indians. Perhaps the First Minister remembers whether there was anything at all expended by the Government of British Columbia before that Province became a member of the Confederation.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Very little.

Mr. MILLS. Very little indeed; and an hon. gentleman who represented that Province in this House for a long time maintained that this was useless expenditure, that it tended to pauperize the Indians, and that the more money was expended in that way the worse off the Indians were. I do not know how far that might be true, but there is no doubt that there is a view of the matter that the Government should guard against, and that is to take no steps to make the Indian population of the Dominion feel that they are dependent upon the Government of Canada for the means of subsistence, and that habits of self-reliance should in this way be undermined. I do not know how far this has been done in British Columbia, but I should judge from the statement made by my hon. friend from South Huron, from the Public Accounts, that the Indians have not been very much injured by this expenditure, for so small a portion of it has reached the Indians that they have not been much demoralized; but, if the suggestion of the hon. member for Victoria were carried out, the Indians there might suffer as seriously as the Indians in some other portions of the Dominion.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria). The hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) apparently forgets that expenditure in the Dominion must be taken as a whole. There is a very large amount of expenditure in the other Provinces which