

useful than any other, but they hoped that, under the fostering influence of the National Policy, Canadians would ere long make these ploughs themselves.

SIR RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT said that the attention of the Ministry ought to be specially directed towards securing suitable employment for the Indians. Mr. Dewdney, in one page of his Report, speaks of certain articles as of inferior quality. It would be outrageous to furnish these poor Indians with inferior tools. However, in this case, it does not appear that that was the fault of the contractor, yet he thought that the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) and the late Government were very much impressed with the necessity of looking after the agents in matters of this kind.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said that the hon. member was quite right. There had been articles sent to the Indians of which the Indians had a right to complain, in regard to implements and other supplies. That happened for some years back as well as last year. They were trying, in every possible way, to put an end to that wrong to the Indians, and prevent inferior articles being foisted upon them. He admitted that he stood in a more favourable position, in regard to the Indians, than his predecessor, or his predecessor, because the country was better known lately, and all matters affecting it could be more intelligibly dealt with. He had no doubt his predecessors were actuated by a desire to carry out the Treaties in a proper spirit. The present Government were trying to carry out the same system, and that, as the country opened up, they involved greater advantages in getting better and cheaper articles, which could be more easily furnished the Indians as they become more accessible.

MR. MILLS said that no doubt the Premier did not stand in a better position, in this respect, than his predecessors. Serious frauds had been practiced on the Indians, but the late Government succeeded in putting an end to them. The great difficulty was not in the want of specifications of the articles required, but in the absence of strict uprightness and integrity on the part of those carrying out the instructions of the Government. He believed that the success of the hon. gentleman, in the administration of the affairs

of the Department, would depend very much upon the system of strict inspection of all the agencies so as to ascertain how the former instructors were discharging their duties, the character of their supplies, and so forth. He would like to ascertain how the Government proposed to distribute \$50,000 or \$60,000 between the Indians under the different Treaties, and for what purpose the money had been applied.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said it would be applied under the Treaties with the different bands.

MR. MILLS said in some places the Indians had received all they were entitled to. Under Treaty 7 a very large number of cattle were supplied in the first instance.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said the bands supplied already could not expect a second supply. It was the intention of the Department to replace some unsuitable cattle that were given to the Indians. I quite agree with the hon. gentleman as to the necessity for rigid inspection. Mr. Dewdney will see that all the reports will be collected under him. He is a man whom we all know, and I believe he is a good selection. He understands the Indian character at all events. He is accustomed to rough it, and has gone over immense tracts of country. He is a most active person, and I have every confidence he will do his whole duty in visiting the different Indian instructors and seeing that they are kept up to their duty. I quite agree with the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Royal) who says he thinks we would have done better to have employed as instructors some of the men up there. That is quite true. It does not need a scientific farmer to teach the Indians to break up ground, and learn the various operations of farming, but it needs a rough man who knows himself how to handle the plough. As to the assistance we had to render the Indians last year, it had to be done in a hurry. The Government received sudden information that the food supply was lacking. There was no time to theorise about it, and we had to send up the men at once. In the future we shall adopt the suggestion of the hon. member for Provencher, and as vacancies occur in the Department they will be filled up with men on the spot, men who understand the Indian character and who know how to guide

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.