

will raise any objection to this increase of expenditure. Then we come to the expenditure on account of Indians. In 1877-78 it was \$421,503.66, and in 1883-84, it was \$1,116,153.87, an increase of \$694,650.21. I may remark that in 1877-78 all the Indian treaties that had been entered into just before were not so far completed that all the Indians received in that year the sum provided for them under the treaty arrangements, and therefore a considerable proportion of the \$694,000 is the result of treaties that were entered into previous to 1878. We had hoped in the present year to have had a decrease in that expenditure; but, unfortunately, owing to circumstances over which neither this Parliament nor the Government have any control—owing to the fact that the buffalo has ceased to make its appearance in the North-West Territories—it has been found expedient, in the interests of the country, during the last two or three years that these unfortunate Indians, instead of being left to starve or to imperil the property or the lives of the white men in that country, should, at all events for a time, until educated to farm or to provide for themselves, be maintained at the public expense rather than bring upon that country any such disaster as would follow from their being allowed to fall into a starving condition. Therefore, much as the Government and the House may regret that we have not been able yet to bring about a decrease of that expenditure, it is hoped ere long that that amount will be reduced. The next item, Sir, is the mounted police. The expenditure has increased from \$345,958.68 in 1877-78 to \$485,983.66 in 1883-84, or an increase of \$140,024.98. This increase is due to the necessity of an increase of the force. I may say here that, taking the force that was in Manitoba from 1874 to 1878, and the mounted police together, the expenditure during the last five years on the mounted police has been