

They cannot be expected to be weaned away suddenly from the habits of their ancestors. But there has been considerable progress made, and chiefly among the prairie Indians of the North-West. I think that, from the evidence we have, the Indians are impressed with the idea that their former supply of food has disappeared, and they must take up the habits of the white men in order to supply their wants. As to the question of my hon. friend from Centre Wellington (Mr. Orton), as far as I can see Mr. Sproat tried to see that the Indians got the full allowance of land, and perhaps, in some cases, an excessive allowance, for all I know. It is his duty to see that they get the full and fair allowance of land, and that it should be fit for cultivation. It would be wrong to sell these poor people, whom we are trying to induce to become agriculturists, lands unfit for cultivation. However, these matters have come up, and it is proper to discuss them.

Vote agreed to.

169 Grist Mill \$3,000

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: This is for the purpose of erecting a grist mill. There is a good deal of grain grown there now, and they have no means of grinding the wheat which is raised. It has been thought well to put up a mill for the purpose of helping the inhabitants who have gone in there to get their ground. It will be used as a grist mill and saw mill. We have secured the services of a man from Ontario, who will, it is expected, purchase the mill as soon as he is able to do so.

MR. BLAKE: I am wholly opposed to the notion that we are to supply facilities to the settlers up there in the way of building grist mills and running them. It will form a bad precedent for similar operations in other parts of the North-West. It would be better to subsidise a private individual.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: There are two very good farms up there which have been cultivated for some years, and which would be almost valueless unless there is some means of grinding wheat. The population is too sparse for us to expect a person to go there and invest his money in building a mill on his own account.

Vote agreed to.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.

170 Provisions for Indians assembled to receive annuity payments for destitute Indians, etc. \$130,686

SIR RICHARD J. CARTWRIGHT: This is an enormous increase on the vote of last year. I suppose it is partly in connection with the destitution which arose. I would like to know if there is any possibility of getting rid of the wasteful practice of sustaining large bodies of Indians at the public expense.

MR. SCHULTZ: Of course, Mr. Chairman, any discussion upon this item is had with disadvantage, in the absence of the Report of the right hon. gentleman at the head of the Department. That Report, it is to be hoped, will contain some scheme which will save to the country the enormous amount of money which is now being expended for this purpose. I agree with the hon. members for South Huron and Bothwell in their expressions of alarm at this continually increasing expenditure, but, at the same time, I hardly regard it as fair in the hon. member for Bothwell to attempt to throw the responsibility of this heavy expenditure on his right hon. successor in office. That hon. gentleman knows perfectly well that the necessity for this expenditure commenced with the sanction, by the late Administration, of one of the vicious conditions of Treaty No. 6, made when that hon. gentleman held office, and the result of the clause—agreeing that the Government should furnish food in times of scarcity—was followed by a vote for that purpose at the very next Session of Parliament, and we have found the constant occurrence of a similar necessity at every Session since, till the vote has reached its present alarming proportions. Of course the gradual disappearance of the buffalo has acted to some extent in this direction, but I am afraid the main cause has been the belief of the Indians, that they might henceforward depend upon the Government, and they ceased to make those exertions, which, in former occasions of temporary absence of the buffalo, had been found to be sufficient to sustain them. I believe, however, that the question: of what shall be done to provide food for the Indians of the plains, will have to be grappled with at once. The buffalo which, hard pressed as they have been on all sides, have