

this would have been provided for, but the matter did not come to my attention in time. My hon. friend has raised this point, but I intended to deal with it when we came to it, and inform the committee, so that we may not be accused of unfairness. In my estimation it should have appeared here, and we should have shown the increase in these general estimates. I shall be prepared to give an explanation of the matter. We shall require practically the same sum for educational purposes as last year.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The Government's proclaimed policy of retrenchment has been changed into a policy of increased estimates, with explanations.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I scarcely think that that complexion should be placed upon the matter. I have been frank with the committee, and I have stated what I would have done if I had known the situation. I have no desire that the estimates shall be misleading to the committee. That is the last thing in my mind. If it is objectionable to have this increase in the expenditure, we will have to discuss it from that standpoint, and give the explanation as to why these items appear. I have mentioned as to the item of \$9,300 in the general expenses, and the memo I have in regard to that is—

Of this increase \$3,300 is required to meet increases in salaries which may be granted under the Civil Service Act and the balance, viz. \$6,000 is required to replace the steamboat formerly in use by the Indian Agent at Kenora, Ont., on the lake of the Woods for many years, but now no longer serviceable and unfit for further use. As the several reserves in this agency can only be reached by water, it is necessary for the Indian Agent to be provided with a suitable boat. Tenders for the construction of a gasoline launch are being invited and the cost estimated at \$5,000. A boat house will also be required at an estimated cost of \$1,000.

I do not know anything about that matter, except the fact that the officials are asking for it and the necessity appears to be great.

Mr. ETHIER: While we are dealing with this item I desire to call attention of the minister to the conditions at the Indian Reserve at Oka in the county of Two Mountains. An Indian Agent has been appointed there to attend to the business of the Indians. His name is Mr. Bertrand. He has been there for some time. There are complaints against him because he does not speak the language of the Indians. I do not know whether he can even speak Eng-

lish. That reserve is composed of Iroquois, Algonquins and a few Hurons. The Indians sent a deputation to Ottawa a short time ago, asking for the appointment of an agent whom they might understand and by whom they might be understood. I presented the matter to the department, before the hon. minister took office, and nothing was done. With the permission of the House, I read a letter which I received from the chiefs of the Reserve:

OKA, QUE., April 25, 1922

Mr. J. A. C. ETHIER, M.P.,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir,—As chiefs of the Oka band of Iroquois Indians, we beg to ask your assistance in bringing the claims of Mr. Joseph Perillard to the office of Indian Agent at Oka, Que., before the Civil Service Commission at Ottawa.

I thought it was proper to bring this matter before the House directly.

His qualification for the said office is unquestionable. He has served in that capacity in the past with satisfaction. His knowledge of the language of the Indians fits him for the office.

I would say that I know personally that Mr. Perillard speaks Iroquois, Huron, Algonquin and French perfectly.

Mr. JACOBS: How can the hon. gentleman say he speaks those languages perfectly?

Mr. ETHIER: I do not know that he speaks them perfectly, but I heard him in court when he acted as translator when some of the Indians from the Iroquois were brought before the court at Ste. Scholastique, district of Terrebonne. He acted as the official translator of the Iroquois language. He has been there ten or fifteen years as Indian Agent. He was there before 1911.

You would do us great service in pressing his claim. Mr. Bertrand is really not fit for the position, because he is utterly ignorant of the Indian language, and because he is not understood by the Indians, owing to his impediment of speech. Moreover, being engaged in business which is his first consideration, he is at a disadvantage to arbitrate difficulties between Indians for fear of antagonizing the goodwill of the people and thereby lose trade. Of course we do not wish to go into details of Mr. Bertrand's unfitness. We think we have pointed out clearly why we think Mr. Perillard's appointment would be for the good of all concerned.

We trust you will do all you can to further the interests of our people.

We remain, yours respectfully,

Chief NOAH CORENTHÉ,
Chief PETER ANGUS.

Representations in regard to this matter have been made to the department by the band. Their representatives have been in Ottawa. These Indians have an agent