

great deal of harm if his only qualification is the possession of the Indian language. But I say that successful and clever farmers might have been selected from amongst the half-breed population, at a lesser cost and with a greater chance of success, than sending out indifferent Ontario farmers. While upon this very important subject, I will repeat what I have already stated, namely, that the Government cannot be too watchful of the experiment they are making just now. I believe the only way to civilise the Indians is through the good work of Christian missionaries. Religion can alone work this wonderful transformation. Let us not lose sight of the teachings of history in this respect. We must interfere in no way whatsoever with the labours of the missionary, but rather facilitate his sublime mission by all means in our power. And, Sir, experience shows on the other hand that to improve the Indian, to train him in habits of civilisation, we must begin when he is a child. So long as we do not take possession of the Indian child by our schools, by our various institutions, we shall work and spend money without any result. It is sheer folly to attempt to make farmers of the roaming bands of the plains. Necessity may force them, for the time being, to extract something from the soil, but they would rather eat their cows and oxen; and the day the buffalo will reappear, the plow will be at once left in the field, and you will see the baulky pupil of the farm instructor rush back to the wild pleasure of hunting. What is now needed in the North-West, is the teaching and the training up of the Indian children. Such an admirable work is being done already with success at St. Albert by devoted sisters of charity and missionaries. Why not take the means to extend and consolidate such an enterprise? I earnestly hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Government will take such an important matter under their very serious and earliest consideration, and that in the solution of the grave problem of civilising the Indians, experience of what has been and is still being successfully done, will guide our experiments and direct our policy.

MR. BUNSTER said that the Indians of British Columbia were generally of a superior class to those from the interior part of the continent. They were intelli-

gent, and made good farmers. Many of them were educated in the Roman Catholic religion, members of which church had taken great pains in civilising them. Those Indians make a good class of settlers, but Chinese emigration was very obnoxious to British Columbia. He wished to draw the attention of the Minister of the Interior to the fact that the Chinese question was the great trouble, and Chinese emigration a great curse. It was the bounden duty of the Government and the people to put the Chinese out of the country.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD: I can understand the strong opinion the gentleman has respecting the Chinese, but we are now dealing with a horse of a different colour. We are discussing the question of red men, not yellow men. The Chinese question might come up next Session.

MR. BUNSTER: I accept the explanation of the right hon. gentleman.

MR. PATERSON (South Brant) said the hon. the Minister of the Interior promised information with reference to the number of tenders received for furnishing supplies under consideration, how many were received and considered for the delivery of the supplies at Winnipeg. He would like information with regard to the supplies required under Treaties Nos. 6, and 1 and 2. He understood that American breaking ploughs had been procured under this Treaty. This—the standard plough required—was an American plough or standard. Was it absolutely necessary that an American standard should be selected, or could they not make ploughs in Canada suitable to the purpose?

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD said the motion made for the Return of all these tenders had not yet produced what was wanted. He imagined that it covered a great quantity of ground. The information which had been obtained would be submitted to-morrow. With respect to the American breaking ploughs, the advertisement was not at all for American made ploughs; he had called upon tenderers to give the lowest tender for ploughs of that pattern. Those who understood the matter declared that the experience of the Americans in breaking up the prairie soil, had made them adopt a certain kind of plough, which was far more