

case of Edmonton, the Red Deer school has been closed with the promise of a school at Edmonton, and we have to provide the accommodation. All these are cases of the utmost urgency or I would not have asked for these appropriations.

Mr. MANION: I quite understand the minister's position, and I do not doubt his word for a moment. I also quite understand that in some outlying sections, say in northern British Columbia, it may not be possible to get other quarters temporarily, but it would seem to me that in a large city like Edmonton it should not be very difficult to obtain temporary quarters in which to carry on until the prices of materials come down and the buildings could be built more cheaply. I do not intend to raise any further objection, but I would suggest to the minister that in the larger centres such as Edmonton, where no doubt temporary quarters could be obtained in which to carry on this school work, the department should postpone erecting buildings until prices reach something like a normal figure. I do not want to suggest, because a little while ago I was taking the part of the Indians in a general way, depriving them of the necessary education they require. I would be the last to do that, but I believe that under certain circumstances and in certain centres the same education might be given in temporary quarters until such time as prices reach a normal level.

Mr. McBRIDE: I have been engaged in the building supplies trade for twenty-five years and I can see no prospect of building material coming down. When you talk about building material coming down I say that expenses and taxes have got to come down first. In pre-war days my taxes at Vancouver were less than \$1,100. Now they are over \$12,000, and that has to be added to the cost of the material. That is only one item. Indeed I can see no chance of building material coming down.

Mr. MANION: I admit that what my hon. friend says about building material is true to a certain extent at any rate but wages are being paid to-day which are materially higher than we paid before the war and I hope for the sake of this country that even the cost of materials may come down and that at least wages will come down below one dollar an hour which is being paid to certain trades at the present time. I hope that will happen for the good of the country, and I think it will happen in the next few years. I have had the privilege recently of reading the opinions of men who have given this question life-long study, and it is their opinion and advice

in the case of any large buildings involving a considerable expenditure to wait for prices to come down.

Mr. JACOBS: Change your immigration regulations and then I think you can go on with the work.

Mr. MANION: They are not mine.

Mr. WARNER: While I have sympathy with the position taken by my hon. friend for Fort William, I happen to know the conditions at Edmonton. It is almost impossible at the present time to get quarters for the white children in the city, and it would be impossible to get any quarters in the city of Edmonton for an Indian school. I believe that it would be the part of wisdom to postpone expenditure on buildings where temporary quarters could be obtained, but this cannot be done at Edmonton. They have carried on under such difficulties that I believe the department is justified in going ahead and building this school for the Indians who have been moved to Edmonton from the old Red Deer school.

Mr. JACOBS: Would the minister explain why the change is being made from Red Deer to Edmonton?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I cannot give my hon. friend full information because it was done prior to my coming into office, but I am told that the reason was in part that Edmonton was more central, easier of access and better for the children.

Mr. JACOBS: I thought it was perhaps for the same reason that Sam Hughes ordered the arsenal to be brought from Quebec to Lindsay.

Item agreed to.

Indian Affairs—salaries, \$149,380; contingencies, \$19,000.

Mr. BANCROFT: Will the minister explain the increase in this item?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): It is made up purely of statutory increases. There is no change in the number of officials.

Item agreed to.

Further Supplementary Estimates, 1923—Department of Indian Affairs—salaries—

To provide for one Accountant, Grade 3, at \$2,580 in lieu of one Accountant, Grade 2, at \$2,460.	\$ 120 00
To provide for one Accountant, Grade 1, at \$1,620, in lieu of one Senior Clerk-Book-keeper at \$1,560.	60 00
To provide for one Senior Clerk-Book-keeper at \$1,380, in lieu of one Clerk-Book-keeper at \$1,110.	270 00
To provide for one Senior Law Clerk-Stenographer at \$1,365, in lieu of one Law Clerk-Stenographer at \$1,320.	45 00
Contingencies—further amount required.	1,000 00