

Supply—Indian Affairs

Mr. BEAUBIEN: I think the minister will admit that instructions are sent out to the Indian agents to ask certain people to give a price on certain commodities needed for the Indians. Do those instructions come from the minister, or from his deputy, or from a local political organization? I want to get into the ring myself; that is all I am looking for.

Mr. MURPHY: I think the hon. member has answered his own question, he seems so familiar with a procedure which possibly he has followed himself in the past ten years. I fancy that the method that is being followed now is practically the same method as has been followed for the past ten years.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: For the minister's information, I may say that I have been a member of this house since December 26, 1921, and I have yet to ask for the dismissal of one person on political grounds. I hope he will remember that and let the officials in my district alone. No politician has the right to take the bread out of the mouth of any man, whether he be blue or green.

An hon. MEMBER: Or red.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Or red.

Mr. RALSTON: Will the minister be good enough to give me the papers in connection with the removal of the Indian doctor at Shelburne? I moved for them some time ago, but they have not yet been brought down.

Mr. MURPHY: I shall be pleased to have them laid on the table as soon as possible.

Mr. RALSTON: Including the letter which limits the amount of pay Doctor Herbin is to get.

Mr. MURPHY: I do not think I stated a letter had been sent to this particular person.

Mr. RALSTON: I understand so.

Mr. MURPHY: I stated I was informed that a sum had been set not to exceed \$20 a month, or \$240 per year.

Mr. RALSTON: The doctor does not know it yet?

Mr. MURPHY: He may.

Mr. RALSTON: He will get a rude awakening.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: Will the minister also let me have the correspondence in regard to the dismissal of Doctor Cloutier of the Roseau River Indian reserve?

[Mr. Murphy.]

Mr. MURPHY: Any correspondence which can be properly brought down I will certainly have laid on the table.

Mr. WEIR (Macdonald): How does it happen that these individual Indians have accounts with the merchants of the various towns, if supplies are bought under tender by the agent?

Mr. MURPHY: Tenders are asked for by the department when the goods are purchased. If an individual Indian desires to purchase goods from a certain merchant, the agent simply takes upon himself the responsibility to pay the account, if he can obtain sufficient money for the purpose out of the proceeds of the crop.

Mr. WEIR (Macdonald): I have in mind an Indian purchasing something on his own account, apart from the agent altogether. In that case what portion of the money does he get under his personal control?

Mr. MURPHY: He may purchase his goods wherever he likes, the same as any other individual, provided he has the cash.

Mr. WEIR (Macdonald): Does he get some from the reserve?

Mr. MURPHY: He gets it either out of the proceeds of his crop, his treaty money, or the interest on his band fund.

Mr. POULIOT: If an appointment is made by the Civil Service Commission of one of the four candidates for the Cacouna Indian agency, will the minister be ready to accept it at once, or will he postpone its acceptance?

Mr. MURPHY: It will be a matter for consideration.

Mr. VENIOT: On September 5, 1930, Howard Brothers, supplying Indians, were notified by the superintendent or Indian agent at Fredericton to discontinue doing so. Will the minister let me know at a later date on whose recommendation the Indian agent was so instructed; and if tenders were asked for?

Mr. MURPHY: I shall be pleased to give the hon. member any information I can obtain in regard to the matter.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): In connection with the question of the purchase of coal on the Blackfoot reserve, I should be glad if the minister can explain to the committee why it is that in the case of fuel supplies for the agency tenders were invited from only two firms—one of them, Mr. William McConnell, not a coal dealer at all, while the other, the