

Indians which have been supported by the generous provision made by this House, but how many white people could be supported out of that appropriation. It is clear that such a policy, based on such a proposition as that, must necessarily be a failure, and I will proceed to show why, in my opinion, the policy that has been pursued by the Government, with the appropriation that this House has made, has so lamentably failed. We find that the average Indian population from 1880 to 1885 was 20,384. And I may say that that includes the Sioux, who, contrary to the statement made on the other side of the House, are in receipt of some provision towards their sustenance. During these years the expenditure on the Indian population in Manitoba and the North-West has increased from \$621,057, in 1880, to \$1,008,930, in 1885. During those five years the total expenditure has been \$5,509,441, or an average of \$918,240 a year. This sum will average \$46 a head for all the men, women and children on the reserves in Manitoba and the Territories, or \$230 per family of five persons. But assuming, what I do not think the accounts will bear out, that the nomadic Indians in the Territories are participating to any great extent in the provision made by this House, I still find, taking the average of the years from 1880 to 1885, that of the 35,000 Indians in Manitoba and the Territories, according to the report of the Inspector-General of Indian Affairs, that amount of money would furnish them with \$26.50 a head, or \$132.50 for each family. I hold that that ought to have been enough. I hold that had justice been done, and had the administration of our Indian affairs in that country been such as this Parliament and the country expected, the uprising which disgraced our country and brought shame and misfortune and loss of life for many, would not have marked the past year in our history. Basing my calculation on the amount divided among the 22,000 Indians who are residents on reserves, I hold that there are many families living in Canada, to-day, who have scarcely as good provisions made for their sustenance as those Indians have had. There are many white people supporting families in Canada, who are not able to calculate on more than \$230 a year for a family of five, throwing in what is practically to the Indian house rent and many other conveniences. If that is the case where, as the hon. member for West Huron has said, everything of reasonable necessity is correspondingly cheap, it must be that his charge, which to this moment stands uncontradicted, that there was mismanagement and misappropriation of the public funds, and that many of the charges made in the public press against those having the administration of affairs in that country are proved. Now, Sir, it will be observed that while the provision for the Indians in the North-West has rapidly increased from 1880, the number of Indians in that country is reported to be the same, and it is a peculiarity that must strike every man who has examined the circumstances of the case with any closeness whatever, that with the increased appropriation has grown the discontent. We know that six or seven years ago the Indian population was reported to be not only contented, but comfortable. It is true, their changed circumstances are attributable, to some extent, to the fact that the buffalo is becoming rapidly extinct; but, on the other hand, there is an increase in the expenditure of about \$400,000 to represent all that should have arisen of a necessitous character in their altered circumstances. Now, I propose to show, by a few extracts from the departmental reports that while this House assumed that it was making ample provision for all the requirements of the Indians, there had been leakages of a most serious character, and that what we have voted has by no means gone in the direction contemplated. I find, Sir, what will strike this House and the country with a good deal of surprise, as it does me, that from 1882 to 1885, four years, there

was expended on implements, for the use of the Indians, under the seven treaties in Manitoba and the North-West, \$92,346; for tools, \$21,820; for wages to farm laborers on the twenty-six Indian farms, \$159,634; for farm maintenance, which includes supplies for these farms, \$130,625; or in these years a total of \$404,427 for these four items. Now, while that is the case, I find that in those years the cultivated area of land in Manitoba and the North-West was as follows:—In 1880, 3,953 acres; in 1881, 3,393; in 1882, 4,490; in 1883, 6,636; in 1884, 8,800; and in 1885, 5,978; or a total area of cultivated land in those years of 33,248 acres, and the expenditure on these four items is equal to \$1,338.50 a year for every 100-acre farm that was cultivated. Now, Sir, I can appeal to any man who can discuss a matter of this kind practically from any experience, no matter how limited, and he will agree with me that the fact of expending \$1,338 under such circumstances on every 100 acres, certainly bears on its face evidence of extravagant management. But, Sir, in those six years I find that we raised of wheat, on the twenty-six Indian farms, in the North-West and on the reserves, which practically embrace all the agricultural operations that are undertaken there, 48,600 bushels; of oats, 21,500 bushels; of peas, 3,500 bushels; of barley, 82,000 bushels; of potatoes, 289,000 bushels; while at the same time we paid for grain and seeds in 1881, \$14,067; in 1882, \$22,957; in 1883, \$13,620; in 1884, \$10,786; in 1885, \$24,443; or a total of \$85,763. I believe this amount expended for grain and seeds is larger than the entire product these farms yielded. Wherever a leakage like that has occurred, it is manifest there must be somewhere or other mismanagement, whether on the part of the Indian farm instructors, Indian agents, Indian Inspectors or the Superintendent General, I leave the House to decide. In the same year, and I have already given some insight as to the quantity of implements that are used on these farms,—in the same year of 1881 of a total of 15,819 implements used on these farms, 4,040 were hoes, 170 ploughs, 120 harrows, thirty-five tool chests which cost \$30 each, and thirteen which cost \$100 each. In the meantime we had spent \$114,168, as I have said, on implements and tools between then and 1885, and increased our stock of implements and tools from 15,819 to 22,114, in which there were 410 waggons, thirty-one fanning mills, forty-seven threshing machines, 566 harrows, and 772 ploughs. But, at the same time, it will be manifest, with such a vast expense as is indicated here, an expense larger, I venture to say, than that on the same number of hundred acres anywhere in Ontario where farming is similarly conducted—where it is solely confined to grain farming—it will not be found there has been an equal expenditure for farming implements within the same year. But the price paid for these is an incidental circumstance, and will, to some extent, be a guide to the reason why the expenditure is as large as it is. I find that the ploughs which were purchased in 1885, as is indicated by the report of the Auditor General, numbered 124, at an average of \$25; breaking ploughs, 70, average \$34; waggons, 33, at an average of \$63; hoes, 1,341, at 79 cents; mowers, 3, at \$101; reapers, 6, at \$143; axes, 1,015, at \$1.40; tool chests 12, at \$81 each—indicating clearly to my mind that the large expenditure indicates the fact that very liberal prices were allowed, and that somebody was making a very satisfactory return out of the appropriation for these Indian supplies. And these facts, divulged by the reports of the Department of Indian Affairs, leads me to the conviction that the Indian, while he may be child-like in his disposition, as we have been led to believe by the books, has characteristics that enable him readily to detect an act of unfairness towards him. No matter what may have been the experience of hon. gentlemen, necessarily that experience must be limited, because, as I understand their explanation, it was confined to a visit in each case