

of the tribe? I was informed yes, and that the agent had been so informed. So it would not be the hereditary system.

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I have no knowledge of that particular case. It would appear that in that case he had been elected by the votes of the band but not confirmed by the agent.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Owing to the delay at Ottawa, according to the agent's reply.

Mr. KENNEDY (Edmonton): Is there an amount provided in this item for improvements or extensions to the school at St. Albert north of Edmonton?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): No. There is an amount of \$145,000 for the industrial school at Edmonton, which was formerly the Red Deer school.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Is any provision made so that the agent will have power to relieve illness or cases of emergency?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): That is always done. If there is not a resident doctor, there is a doctor whose duty it is to go to the reserve on call. That is the case with all the reserves.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Do I understand the minister to say that the agent has power to allocate to a sick Indian additional supplies of food and so forth?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Oh yes. That is his duty. He must not allow the Indians to starve.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): I am glad to hear the minister say that because these chiefs have reported to me that on complaint to the agent at Gleichen they could receive no relief whatever. The agent replied, and I am giving this complaint as I got it, "I have no power. I must get that power from the commissioner."

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): The Indian is pretty much of a white man when it comes to describing his difficulties. He does not minimize them at all. I discovered that last year when I was on a visit westward. When I brought the officials and the chiefs together I found that the stories I had heard were not borne out by the testimony. I would be very glad to do the same in this particular case, bring the officials and the chiefs together, and if they have legitimate complaints we shall be glad to clear them up.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Thank you. May I ask how much capital was used in the original purchase of equipment, lands, stock and so on in connection with the Blackfoot reserve?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I have not the figures at hand but will give them to my hon. friend.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): You will let me have them?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): Yes.

Mr. LEWIS: Why are the general expenses under this item for Manitoba and Saskatchewan so great, much larger than any of the others?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): This, of course, covers the salaries of all the agents in the western provinces and the expenses in connection with their offices. It covers the Northwest Territory, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. I have the figures in detail, but it would take considerable time to give them.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): The Indians of the Blackfoot reserve complain of this fact: When their crop is threshed they are compelled by the agent to dispose of all of it except one load, which they are allowed to retain for seed. Some of these Indians have one hundred acres or more ready for crop and one load, of course, will not nearly suffice for seed. The result is, they say, they have to go back to the agent in the spring and purchase at an enhanced price the additional feed required. Would the minister look into that?

Mr. STEWART (Argenteuil): I can hardly conceive of an agent being so improvident as to ask the Indian to sell his grain down to a point where he would not have sufficient left to seed his land. I think when we came to investigate that complaint we would find it was not borne out by the facts. However, we will investigate it. One of the things we are endeavouring to teach the Indian is prudence. Improvidence is his great failing; he does not provide, and that is one virtue we are trying to encourage him in. It certainly would be a very foolish procedure to sell beyond the point where his requirements for feed and seed would be fully met.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): That was the way in which it struck me. What provision has been made on that reserve for the education of the children? I understand the school has been closed since July. It was alleged to be closed for repairs, but apparently it has not been opened up yet.