

Peter's reserve. The hon. gentleman seems very fortunate in getting hold of these clerical gentlemen to pull his chestnuts out of the fire. I will read the instructions to the Rev. Dr. MacDougall:

Department of Indian Affairs,  
Ottawa, 27th September, 1910.

I am directed to request that you will be good enough to proceed to the St. Peter's Indian reserve and also to the new reserve set apart for these Indians at Fisher River, and ascertain the general condition of these Indians and the progress that is being made in the removal to the new reserve. The Department would like to be advised as to the number of Indians that have removed and what steps should be taken to facilitate further movements, and how such removals can best be accomplished and at what time.

I can tell what will facilitate removal—do justice to the Indians.

The Indian agent has been instructed to hold an election of chief and councillors for these Indians but no report has been received in connection therewith. It would be well to ascertain what progress has been made in this matter, and report.

This is another of the outrages that have been perpetrated on this band of Indians. They were practically taken by the throat by the Indian agent at Selkirk, as must have been reported to the Deputy Superintendent General or to the minister. They have refused to allow this band of Indians to have an election ever since that surrender was made—why? Because they realized that as soon as an election took place the chief and council, who had betrayed the band, who had sold themselves to the government to agree to this surrender, would be put out of office, and another class of men would be put in office, who would contest this surrender at every inch of the way. For that reason these Indians have been denied the right which they have enjoyed ever since they were a band of having an election every two or three years. In any case they were entitled to an election the year after this surrender took place, but they have never been able to secure consent to have an election since, so that those men who betrayed the band and who sold themselves to secure this surrender still hold office.

Referring to this report, I would like to ask why was it necessary to choose the Rev. Dr. MacDougall to find out how many Indians had been removed from the old reserve to the new? Why, we have two Indian inspectors in Winnipeg and one in Selkirk, the Rev. John Semmens, drawing \$1,200 to \$1,500 each per year, and one or two others drawing the same salaries. The Indian agent in Selkirk could have got that information, but the minister sent out the Rev. Dr. MacDougall to make an investigation. Dr. MacDougall went out first to the new reserve and held a meeting

there. Every statement which I made last session was repeated to him in St. Peter's Indian Reserve by the Indians themselves. After holding the meeting in the new reserve, he ascertained that only 162 Indians out of 1,300 had been moved from the old reserve to the new, after an expenditure of \$30,000 or \$40,000 for legal expenses and building houses and moving those 162 people. In other words there were over 1,100 people yet in possession of the lands on the old reserve which had been wrongfully taken from them. But when Dr. MacDougall came back to Selkirk to the old reserve, I must give him credit for one thing. He acted fairly in calling a meeting. He did not do as the Deputy Superintendent General had done. He did not spring a trap on the Indians by giving them only 24 hours to come and vote away their birthright. He gave 10 days' notice that he was going to hold a meeting, and he held not one but two meetings. The first lasted over three hours. The Indians asked me to attend but I refused to go simply because I wanted to give Dr. MacDougall a fair chance. I met him and talked the matter over with him; and I said to him that I would not go to the meeting because I had every faith that he would give a fair and honest report of what took place. I did not go near the meeting, but two reporters from Winnipeg attended and made a full report of what took place. That report is in this House at present and will speak for itself. I am not going to read it, but I have a letter here from one of the Indians, Mr. William Asham. I have said before in this House, and my statement was ridiculed, that Mr. Asham is one of the most intelligent and eloquent Indians in Canada, and I do not believe that I exaggerated in making that statement. Mr. Asham knows what he is talking about, and he addressed this letter to myself:

St. Peter's, January 14, 1911.

Geo. H. Bradburn, M.P.

Dear Sir:—In the matter of Rev. John MacDougall visiting St. Peter's reserve last fall, held a public meeting with the Band of St. Peter's Indians, said that he was sent to hear the grievances in general, as well personal grievances, if there were any. Amongst other things, the following were the grievances that were laid before him:

1st. Rev. John Semmens, Inspector of Indian Agencies, was accused of saying in Cree language, just at the time when the vote was to be taken for the surrender of the St. Peter's reserve, "Those of you that want \$90 (ninety dollars) go that side," indicating to where the chief and councillors stood. This matter was proved by the meeting before Mr. John MacDougall that such words were used by Mr. Semmens. Of course, without doubt, those words were misleading.

2nd. That a big percentage of the treaty In-