

Mr. GAULT. I hope that is the last contract they will get out of this Government. I know the greatest scandal ever committed in Montreal was committed by these people.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). The testimony of the hon. member for Montreal West (Mr. Gault) is very valuable, for I understand him to allege that this firm ought never to have had the contract.

Mr. GAULT. The first contract was taken through the old Government.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Still, they were entrusted with furnishing the supplies after very strong evidence had been given against them, and I think, if the hon. gentleman looks through the Indian Department accounts, he will see, year after year, enormous sums of money paid to this firm. Now, I need not read the whole of it, in which the Deputy Minister brings before the Minister the fact that while they have the remedy in their own hands, as they have the unpaid vouchers of this firm in their hands, they may make a reduction on that flour and keep that out. And he points out the fact that many lives have been lost which, he truly says, are above all monetary considerations, and which cannot be offset by any deductions that might be made, however, the funds of the Department might be saved, in taking that legitimate course.

Mr. BOWELL. Will the hon. gentleman allow me to ask whether that return from which he is now reading, does not prove that the moment this irregularity took place the Government took the most active steps to prevent it in future, and to punish those, as far as possible, who committed it.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I am coming to that. I know that the Government took steps to see that the money—

Mr. BOWELL. To investigate the whole thing.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Yes, and the money was refunded.

Mr. BOWELL. We could not have had that analysis if the Government had not taken steps immediately to rectify the wrong.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I am not denying that. The Minister of Customs surely would not lead us to infer that the Government could be so totally insensible to their duty as that after a medical attendant had reported to them that men were absolutely dying because of the bad quality of the flour, they should not have taken some action.

Mr. BOWELL. The whole gravamen of the charge brought against the Government is, that they did neglect their duty in not looking into it.

Mr. MITCHELL. But the Government continued to give contracts to the same men for the same things afterwards. That is the point.

Mr. BOWELL. Not since that was done.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I think the gravamen of the charge lies as well in this direction, that the Government have maintained persons in their employ in the North-West who have evidenced by their past conduct that they are not worthy of the position that they hold.

Mr. BOWELL. That is one of the charges.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Now, in this very report, this Denny is said, in the memorandum, to have certified to this account, and he is blamed by the deputy to the First Minister here, but I am not in a position to say whether Mr. Denny was punished or not. But this I do find, that his name appeared in the pay list of 1884, but I do not find in the pay list of 1885, whether he is in the employ of

the Dominion Government. Could the Minister of Customs tell me if he is?

Mr. BOWELL. I could not tell you.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Does the Minister of the Interior know?

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell) I know nothing about it.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). I can only say that I found his name in the Indian report of 1884, and his salary up to March, 1884, but I do not find him in 1885. I hope, for the credit of the Government, that he has not been taken on in some other capacity, because he certified to this flour. But you will see, from reading through this report, what I. G. Baker & Co. say with reference to this flour, and what the agents of the Government state in reference to it. In reply to a letter from the Department of the Interior, I. G. Baker & Co. say:

"Referring to the papers you allowed me to peruse to-day respecting a report of Dr. Girard that the flour supplied by our firm to the Indians in parts of Treaty No. 7, being inferior and injurious to the Indians, we beg to say that the flour referred to was purchased by us from the well known milling firm of"—

I leave that blank unless I am to read their letters also—

"Winnipeg, and is of better quality than that eaten by the majority of the people in the North-West."

An hon. MEMBER. Name, name.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Well, it is Ogilvie & Co.

Mr. MITCHELL. Let us have the whole of it.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). The hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Mitchell) will have to share with me the blame of making a longer speech than I intended. It continues:

"It is not possible that frozen wheat was used in the manufacture of this flour, as it was supplied before the autumn frosts. It is the same brand of flour we supplied at Fort Walsh last winter, of which no complaint was made.

"I would call your attention to the statements of Agent Denny and Sub-Agent Pocklington, contained in the papers. Agent Denny says the flour could not be better. Pocklington says the cause of the sickness could not be poor flour, that it was as good as that used last winter; and, if flour was the cause, why were they not sick at other agencies? or words to that effect."

I have said I fail to find Mr. Denny's name in the accounts of 1885, and therefore in my mind I gave credit to the Government for having removed him for reporting favorably on such flour as that proved to be. But I find Mr. Pocklington's name in the accounts of 1885; he is the agent of the Government at the present time, this gentleman that the firm of I. G. Baker & Co. used as an agent to prove that the flour which spread disease and death among the Indians of the North-West was pure flour. I ask are the Government maintaining a gentleman like that in their employ? If they are how can they justify themselves in that regard? The document goes on to say:

"Dr. Girard's report is not so much against the flour as the bread, and he recommends the issue to the Indians of baking powder."

I suppose, from that statement, that there must be another letter from Dr. Girard which has not been brought down in the papers, or at least I have not been able to find it, because from the letters nothing appears to have been said about baking powder. It continues:

"It is difficult to make bread without leaven of some kind, an article which the Indians seldom have to use, and their bread is simply flour and water mixed, fried in a frying-pan with tallow or grease of any kind they can get.

"I think that the trouble complained of by Dr. Girard, is the result of the changed mode of living of the Indians; while roaming on the prairie, hunting and exercising, their stomachs could digest, without inconvenience, the indigestible fried bread that they make, but now they are on their reserves, with comparatively little exercise, and eating it daily, it is not to be wondered at that they suffer from eating indigestible food.

"The issue of baking powder would, we feel certain, remedy the trouble, that, however, would become a very expensive item, and, I