

be as good as the information ought to be, and he added: I propose to bring the matter up on the Estimates. The next morning I sent for the surveyor, a very able man and one of our most able land surveyors, who had had this particular land under his supervision, who surveyed it two or three years ago, and who, last year, was sent up by me for the purpose of staking out every quarter-section and putting in posts, and making a detailed description of every quarter-section. It has been known that we were doing this throughout the country for the last six months. I will not dispute the dates given by the hon. gentleman as to the advertisements. I had been almost dreading the bill which would reach me in connection with this matter, particularly after I received a very large account for an advertisement I ordered some time ago, and was brought to my attention in this House. I made particular enquiries as to the extent the advertising had gone, as I did not wish to be extravagant. I am very much mistaken if there have not been advertisements in the North-West papers for four, five or six months respecting the sale of this land.

Mr. WATSON. The advertisements sent out by the Indian Department, signed by Mr. Van-koughnet, are dated at the Department of Indian Affairs, 15th May, 1891.

Mr. DEWDNEY. That might be the case. They were sent out to the Indian agents and others to be posted up, and to be added to the already extensive advertisements in the newspapers. In reference to the report which the surveyor has made of that land, I may mention that I have been over the land on more than one occasion, and I have been through that reserve north, south, east and west. Portions of the reserve is of excellent quality, but on others the soil is light and it is not so good. I pressed upon the Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs to impress upon the auctioneer, when he sold that property, that he should not exaggerate the description of the quality of the land of the Interior Department, and I did so because I found that an auctioneer, in order to get a large price, had described land far beyond what the reports of the land surveyors warranted, and on account of this we had, in several cases, to exchange the land bought for better land, because we found that the representations made to the purchasers were incorrect. I may say that a more able and a more honest and honourable man than Mr. Nelson, the land surveyor, is not in the service of the Dominion, and I place the greatest reliability in the descriptions he has given. He has valued every quarter-section, and it varies from two to five dollars per acre, and in looking through the field notes of the surveyor and getting explanations from Mr. Dennis, who is our inspector of surveys, I find that it is remarkable how well they agree with regard to the value of land. Now, with regard to the time of sale, I have probably as much experience as the hon. member for Marquette (Mr. Watson), and I am the responsible head of the department, and have to exercise my best judgment. I believe now, and I believed six months ago, that the time to sell that property was when the railway was just coming to this point and being finished, because, I believe it would then be more valuable than it would be in a year's time. When the railway is

being built is the time to get a boom in the land. The expiration of the contract time for the building of that railway is on the 1st July of this year, and I maintain that a better time could not be selected for the sale of that property. If we find that the land is not realizing what we think it should realize we will stop the sale, but my object is to get every dollar we can for the Indians who are interested in that reserve to place in the Indian funds. I do not know to-day one single individual who has talked of buying one acre of that land. I hope that the road will be built on the 1st July, and I believe that we can get a good price for the land then.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Are these lands surrendered?

Mr. DEWDNEY. Yes; they belong to half-breeds who have taken scrip.

Mr. LAURIER. Do I understand that the lands were surrendered on receiving scrip?

Mr. DEWDNEY. Yes.

Mr. LAURIER. Will the money then go into the Indian funds?

Mr. DEWDNEY. Yes.

THE BUDGET DEBATE.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Does the hon. Minister intend to proceed with the Budget debate to-morrow, or is there any other business to take precedence of it?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. We will ask the House to concur in the resolution that was passed to-day, then we will take the Admiralty Bill and then the Budget.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. If the discussion to-morrow at all resembles the discussion of to-day it may mean going over the Budget discussion.

Mr. FOSTER. The discussion must have petered out to-day.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Are you quite sure?

Mr. FOSTER. No; not certain.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I think the Budget discussion should go on to-morrow. We consented practically to allow the matter to wait on the very distinct understanding that it would have been continued at once. It is quite impossible that the discussion on the resolution that we have introduced can be got through in one or two days. It may involve very much more delay than the hon. gentlemen think if they allow another day to pass without continuing the discussion.

Motion agreed to; and House adjourned at 11.10 p. m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, 26th June, 1891.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

PRAYERS.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 114) for the better security and safety