

but the export of the forest has kept up, and that export is entirely independent of our legislation. It has largely aided in preserving the prosperity of Canada during the times of depression which have visited this in common with other countries. With that trade, fortunately, the Parliament of Canada have nothing to do. They might possibly, if it had been under their control, have crippled it also. Any regulations affecting it belong exclusively to the Provincial Legislature, and therefore for that portion of the prosperity of this country we can claim no special credit.

In the next paragraph of the Speech we are reminded that peace and order have been restored, and now prevail in the North-West Territories. Yet notwithstanding that assurance, we are told that precautionary arrangements are yet necessary in order to ensure protection and a greater feeling of satisfaction amongst the people. What does that mean? Is it true that we are going to send a few more battalions up to the North-West that this flying column that the newspapers have discussed is to be sent through that country from one end to the other in order to terrify the Indians? It is supposed, now that the Half-breed claims are settled, that they are no longer disposed to press further grievances at Ottawa. The flying column, therefore, it is to be assumed, is to intimidate the Indians. My advice to the Government would be, that instead of spending a large sum of money in trying to frighten the Indians, it would be much safer to take better care of those wards of the Dominion, and to see that they are properly provided for, and treated more generously as to the supply of provisions; that the agents and the contractors who have to do with their well-being in that country, are men of greater honesty than the public press and the residents in that country say in the past they have been. The dissatisfaction of the Indian is, no doubt, due entirely to his treatment by the white man. Let any of us contrast the relations of the white man and the Indian in the past two hundred years up to within ten years, and what does it show? For two hundred years, up to a very recent period, peace and happiness prevailed in the North-West.

The Hudson Bay Company's employes were able to go from one end of the country to the other without being in the smallest degree alarmed at the savages; missionaries travelled all through that country, and were warmly received, even by those of the Indians who were not Christianized. Property was safe, the Hudson Bay Company's stores were never attacked, and private property was respected amongst the savages. Yet in recent years, owing to the unhappy intercourse with the white man, this position of affairs has completely changed. I say it is rather a reflection on our boasted civilization that our intercourse with the savage has led him to place less confidence in, and hold in lower estimation, his white brother than in former years. This is due largely to causes that in my judgment were avoidable. The people who have been sent up into that country the last ten or fifteen years—more particularly during the last seven or eight years—to look after the interests of the Indians have had but one motive, to make money, no matter whether out of the poor Indian, or some other source. To become suddenly rich was the moving impulse with those employes of the Government. If we are to believe the evidence of ministers, priests, bishops and laymen, the conduct of the Government agents and the Government authorities was most reprehensible. We are excessively careful in compelling the young men we employ in the offices at Ottawa to pass a special examination—to graduate, so to speak, in morality; yet of the class of men we have sent up into the North-West to look after the interest of the poor Indian, some have gone there with the lowest impulse to treat the poor savage as if he were a brute. And what has been the result? It has changed the character of the entire Indian population. It is through our maladministration in that country that the Indian is to-day what he is. I am quite aware that it is a most difficult problem, but still it is not so absolutely impossible to obtain honest, faithful servants, that any Government is justified in appointing a class of agents such as, to a large extent, were sent among the Indians. More liberal treatment, in my judgment, would be the best policy to pursue towards the savage. The sending of troops