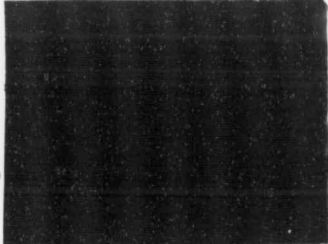


sent government. There was no other demand, there was no petition from any source asking that the surrender be secured. The only man who is on record, according to the minister himself, as having requested the surrender is Mr. S. J. Jackson. This surrender, Mr. Speaker, was secured right on the eve of a general election. The money that was paid out for these lands was circulating through that constituency just in the middle of my campaign. The Indian agent, who, I have proven to this House, was recreant to his trust as a government official, was an active organizer for my opponent, Mr. S. J. Jackson. He organized the whole eastern part of the constituency against me, and, more than that, he seemed to have abundance of money, so much so, that I regret to say, that one of my committees saw fit to have him arrested two days before the election for paying out money in the town of Beauséjour. The speculators taking advantage of the ignorance of the Indians, 23,000 acres of land were disposed of without let or hindrance, without the guidance or advice of the Indian Department. I want it to be remembered, Mr. Speaker, that every one of these Indians had been raised and brought up to lean and to look upon the Indian Department as their guide and adviser. But this government gives them this valuable land, and then withdraws all its protection, support and guidance. And, in addition to this, we have the letter that was written by the deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, Mr. Pedley, the man who negotiated this surrender, warning the public that no transactions of any kind would be recognized, practically telling the public to stand off, and then we have these four men stepping in and buying these lands at whatever they could get them for, on whatever terms and on whatever conditions. These facts justify me in saying that this whole transaction was engineered from the very beginning for the benefit of the few men who secured these valuable lands from the government. Admitting for the sake of argument that the minister's contention was right—which I do not admit—that the Indian refused to sign the surrender unless he got this land to do as he pleased with it, it would be no justification for the government withdrawing its protection from its wards and allowing them to be imposed upon and practically despoiled of the valuable lands that the government had given them. The government, responsible for this surrender, knew the Indian nature, knew that he could not long resist the allurements of a little money, and that this land would soon fall into the hands of a few land sharks who were ready to pounce upon the unsuspecting Indian. Just as soon as the government removed all these restrictions and said that the In-

dian could dispose of his land to whom he pleased and for what he pleased, these favoured people, this quartette of patriots, got to work and began making bargains to secure the lands under the best conditions they could. But, unfortunately for the minister, the facts do not bear out what he stated about the Indians refusing to sign the surrender. I have it from reliable Indians that there was no demand from the band, as a band, that the protection of the department should not be provided for in the surrender. I am told that when Mr. Pedley read the clause already placed in the surrender which provided that an official of the department should supervise all sales made by the Indians, it was objected to by a few Indians, but not by the band. It was not put to the vote, and neither the chief nor one of his councillors objected to the clause being in the surrender. But worst of all, I am informed, that the deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, the man representing this government, who is the guardian of the wards of this country, did not endeavour in any way to explain to these



was done.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in proof of this contention I have here among the letters which were brought down by the minister himself, a letter signed by one of the Indian councillors which reads:

St. Peters, September 21, 1909.

Hon Mr. Oliver,—All our Indians are dissatisfied, and are still looking for help from the Indian department, and we the chief and councillors are dissatisfied. For when the surrender was made, before Mr. Frank Pedley, the Indians were asked if they would allow the government to appoint one of their officials to make bargains for them, some Indians said 'No, we can make our own bargains.' But not one of the councillors or the chief, because we want the government to help us, because we, the Indians are like children.

W. H. PRINCE.

Is there any other evidence I could give to the House which would be half as conclusive as this, showing that there was no demand made by the Indians as a band,