

Province on as good a footing in respect to the amount of land reserved for them as the Indians to the east of the Rocky Mountains, but according to the evidence which had been published—among other communications a letter of the English Church clergyman, who was a devoted missionary among the Indians in that Province, and also a letter by the Roman Catholic priest, who had also labored among them, and which letter had appeared in the British Columbia papers—and taking into consideration the fact that the Indians had on several occasions of late undertaken by violence to assert their rights, he was forced to the conclusion that there was chronic discontent among the Indians which might break out into a flame at any moment. The Dominion Government had therefore made strong representations to the local Government on the subject, and they had also communicated the documents relating to the subject to the Colonial Secretary, in order that, in case of a dispute arising out of it which should be referred to him, he would understand the case. The blame did not rest with the Dominion Government, but rested entirely with those who were seeking to impose upon the Indians, as he believed the Provincial Government were doing. If the Indians of that Province should assert their rights, as they might do, that Government would find themselves in very serious difficulties, for in no part of the Province had the Indians been even asked to extinguish their title to the lands, as they had been in other parts of the Dominion. The Indians were perfectly aware of what had taken place on the east side of the Rocky Mountains. They knew that their brethren in the other parts of the Dominion had been bargained with and paid for their lands, while they had received nothing except from five to ten acres per family, the Indians in the other parts of the Dominion receiving eighty acres per family. The money that this House had voted in any one year was more than the entire sum paid by the British Columbia Government during the entire time of its existence for the benefit of the Indians, and yet the hon. member for Victoria had endeavored to cast blame on the Dominion Government for not dealing liberally with the Indians.

Mr. DECOSMOS said he cast as much blame upon the late Government as upon

*Hon. Mr. Mackenzie.*

the present one. Both Governments had neglected their duty. He heard last session that they intended to do this and that, but up to the present time he was not aware that they had done anything. The best proof that could be given of the manner in which the Indians of British Columbia had been treated by the Provincial Government was the words of the Premier himself. He had stated that since the Union the Dominion Government had expended more money in the Indian Department of British Columbia than was spent during the whole previous history of the Province. That showed that the Provincial Government knew how to manage the Indians, and it was only since the management of Indian affairs came into the hands of the Dominion Government that discontent had arisen. He strongly urged the necessity of steps being taken to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquors to Indians, and also to establish schools amongst them, and model farms where they might learn how to carry on agricultural pursuits. With respect to a letter which had been written by a reverend gentleman, he might say that he could easily understand that in the district where that reverend gentleman resided there might be some desire on the part of the Indians to get more land for grazing purposes, and he was not aware that the Government of British Columbia had any objection whatever to give them more land for that purpose.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said that the Provincial Government had absolutely refused to grant the Indians lands equivalent to those held by Indians elsewhere. One of the missionaries laboring amongst the Indians in that Province had told him that when he called upon the Local Government and had a long discussion with them as to what they proposed to do, he was finally told by one of the members of the Government that they intended to act upon the motto, "Let him take who has the power, and let him keep who can." This was not the principle the Indians themselves acted upon, or else the whites of British Columbia would have had more trouble in the settlement of that country. The hon. member for Victoria had stated that the Indians had only become discontented after that Province had been joined to the Confederation, but he would assure that hon. gentlemen that the evidence very