

THE FACTS

RESPECTING

INDIAN ADMINISTRATION

IN THE NORTH-WEST.

ON the 15th of April last, in his place in the House of Commons, Mr. M. C. Cameron, of West Huron, essayed a consideration of the Dominion Government's administration of Indian affairs in the North-west. It was quite proper that he should do so. It was his privilege to discuss that question or any other public question if he chose: it became his duty to discuss it if he believed the public interest would thereby be served; for an opposition Member of Parliament is not without responsibility for the legislation of the country, or for the administrative acts of the Government. If he cannot influence that legislation or control those acts, it is his duty to offer counsel respecting them and to enter public protest against them if he believes them to be unwise or unjust.

The subject of Indian administration is one of great importance. Large sums of public money are expended annually on account of the Indians, and it is proper to inquire whether or not that money has been wisely and honestly expended; it is proper to inquire whether the Government and its officials have dealt justly and prudently by the Indians; and it is still more important to know that the Indians are so justly treated and so firmly controlled that they will not become a menace to white settlers in the North-west. It is very clear, then, that, in rising to debate the question referred to, Mr. Cameron was quite within the line of his duty.