

vice in the North-West, and by a mass of independent testimony that in my judgment is simply startling. The reports of the Department for the last four or five years are eloquent with statements of wrongs done to the Indian, of promises broken, of violated treaties made with the Indian, of gross injustice done to the Indian, of shameful official misconduct on the part of those appointed to administer Indian affairs in the North-West, of lying, cheating, and robbing the Indian; and I propose to establish these propositions in their order by extracts from the reports of the Department and by the testimony of individuals thoroughly conversant with the situation of affairs in the North-West Territories. Let me then, first, deal with the kind of officials which this Government placed over the untamed, uneducated, uncivilised, unchristianised wards of the nation with whom this country was bound to deal honestly and fairly, because Canada induced the Indians of the North-West to surrender their possessory rights to what is practically an empire for the merest pittance. Writers upon the Indian question, and especially such writers as the authoress of "One hundred years of dishonor," speak of the Indians as easily managed, peaceable, quiet, inoffensive, docile, so long as he is fairly and honestly treated; but as faithless, turbulent, and rebellious when he is injured, when he is deceived, when he is wronged, when he is defrauded. In order to retain the confidence of the Indian, in order to educate, to elevate, to civilise and to christianise the Indians, it was of the first consequence that men of character, men of honesty, men of truthfulness, men of high moral standing, should have been selected to preside over and administer Indian affairs in the North-West Territories. I regret to say that, in so far as I have been able to gather the facts, such men have not been selected. Some of the men selected by the Government of this Dominion from the swarm of camp followers that usually surround this Administration, were men who were utterly unfit for the positions they were called upon to fill. Men who were unfit for positions in the public service in the older Provinces of the Dominion, were shipped off to Manitoba and the North-West Territories, and given charge over the Indians there, men who have proved themselves to be utterly unfit for their positions, who have proved themselves to be dishonest, careless, immoral. I say, Sir, that the conduct of the officials of the North-West Territories, more than anything else, created dissatisfaction and discontent among the Indians; I say that the misconduct and the mismanagement of the Administration in connection with the Indian affairs in the North-West Territories, as much as anything else, produced uneasiness, dissatisfaction and discontent among the Indians, which ultimately broke out into open rebellion. I charge, Mr. Speaker, that many of the officials appointed by this Administration, from Commissioner Dewdney down to the lowest official in the service of this Government in the North-West Territories, are wholly unfit to discharge the important duties that devolve upon them, and that these men ought to have been dismissed from their positions by this Government many, many years ago. The Indians, Sir, have no faith in Commissioner Dewdney, they have faith in but few of the officials in the North-West Territories, but none in Commissioner Dewdney, they know him too well, they have been deceived by him too often. He has been charged, and correctly charged, with being domineering, arrogant, tyrannical, unfair, untruthful in his dealings with the Indians. With such a commissioner, and with a similar class of officials, we could expect nothing else than uneasiness, dissatisfaction, discontent, and ultimately rebellion in the North-West Territories. The charges I have made against the Administration and the officials of the Administration in the North-West Territories, I propose to establish out of the blue books submitted to Parliament and by the testimony of independent men, and of journals supporting this Administration. The

Winnipeg Times, an organ of hon. gentlemen opposite, a Conservative paper, published in the city of Winnipeg, thus describes Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney:

"But the dross of gold is not Mr. Dewdney's god. He is eminently a philanthropist. His delight is to advance the interests of the savage and promote the welfare of the more wretched white man under his sceptre. For example, when Long Lodge, chief of the Assiniboines, who were camping last summer near Indian Head, complained that the contractor's bacon, costing the Canadian taxpayer's nineteen cents per pound, was not suitable to the Indian palate, the Indians feeding always on buffalo meat; when Long Lodge offered to accept half a pound of steer beef, costing a York shilling a pound dead weight, in place of a pound of bacon costing nineteen cents; when Long Lodge said the bacon was "hurting his people because it was not their food," Mr. Dewdney said "the Indians should eat the bacon or die, and be damned to them." This was not said in haste, but at his honor's leisure. He did not say it because his friend the contractor, who happened to be in a land syndicate with him, had 90,000 pounds of that bacon to dispose of, but because he wished to indoctrinate the savage with the tastes of the average white man. Mr. Dewdney, let Piapot witness, is the Indians' friend. To the white man also he sets a noble example. He teaches the raw settler a new code of morals. He shows him by precept and example that in these degenerated days it is not necessary for a man holding a trust not to abuse it. He illustrates in his own walk and life the modern principles that every man should fight for his own wallet. He is, in this great country, the most signal exemplar of the science of how to get along regardless of the means or methods of locomotion. Mr. Dewdney, therefore, deserves well at our hands and at the hands of the Indians of these Territories. It would hardly be appropriate to present him with a homestead, for he has several, also preemptions in abundance. Money would also be out of place, inasmuch as while Sir Leonard has a surplus and Sir John remains in power, he will not want. Could anything be more appropriate than to present him with a petition to leave, to get out, to go elsewhere and teach other Indians and other white men the ethics of grab, greed and shamelessness which he has introduced here?"

That extract, Sir, is from a paper published in the interests of the Government, and was published three years ago, and up to this hour this Indian Commissioner, so described by an organ of the Government, still retains his place as Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the North-West Territories. The Ottawa Sun, another paper not unfriendly to this Administration, speaking of the officials in the North-West, says:

"The country has been cursed with an unscrupulous and tyrannical officialdom, and to this cause may be traced the origin of the present trouble. Officials were selected purely from political reasons, without regard to fitness, or, in many cases, character. And the last thing to be considered has been the wishes or interests of the settlers, who have no representative in Parliament, and no recourse against the tyranny of these officials. Almost every official made it his business to get rich by speculating in the lands which the interests of the country required should be administered in the interest of the actual settler. Land agents have been in partnership with claim-jumpers, and used their advantages to rob honest settlers by treacherous technicalities for the benefit of the land sharks. Junius tells us something about public men who suddenly became rich, which may be properly applied to Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney. That gentleman, when he came to Ottawa in 1872, was practically a pauper. To-day he is a wealthy man. He did not save his wealth out of his salary. When he personally drove off the settlers from the county of Kent, who had gone in under very great difficulties and at great expense at a trying season of the year, built houses, and started to break land for cultivation—when he insulted men who went in mistaken confidence to him for protection against the outrage perpetrated by Major Bell—he was at the time, it is alleged, in receipt of a present of \$10,000 in the stock of the Bell Farming Company."

Now, you must bear in mind, Mr. Speaker, that this Commissioner Dewdney, so described by two organs of the Government, is the official who has charge of the Indians in the North-West Territory, and has had charge of them for a series of years. The attention of the Government has been drawn to the conduct of this man, to the actions of this man, yet up to this hour the first step has not been taken to remedy the wrong that is alleged to have been perpetrated by him. The Farmers' Union, a body of respectable men in the North-West, thus speaks of the character of the officials this Administration sent to the North-West to administer Indian affairs in that region:

"We point with a sorrowful pride to the fact that whilst we are trying to secure consideration and justice our sons and brothers have left their farms to grow to weeds while they are away in the North-West Territory, risking and laying down their lives like loyal sons of Canada to defend the supremacy of the flag of our forefathers from the contaminating touch of half-breeds and savages driven to despair by misgovernment, and by the acts of incompetent and dishonest Government officials."