

SPEECHES

On the Indian Difficulties in the North-West; delivered by Mr. Robert

Cunningham, M.P., and Hon. Donald A. Smith, M.P., in the

House of Commons, April 1st, 1873.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM said he desired to make a few remarks on this subject, but could not do so without calling attention to a strange ailment of the member for Lisgar. He never spoke on any subject at any time, or anywhere, without first making a violent attack on the Hudson Bay Company. That Company stood very much in the same relation to the hon. gentleman as King Charles's head stood to Mr. Dick, in "David Copperfield." (Laughter.) I shall not enter into the cause of this. It might not be interesting to the House, but the people in Manitoba know all about it. But he challenged the honorable gentleman to point out how in any respect whatever—how in one particular—the Company were liable for the present uneasiness amongst the Indians in the North-West. It was men, like the hon. gentleman himself, who went about amongst the Indians, making all sorts of promises to them, never meant to be fulfilled, who created uneasiness amongst the Indians; and it is a fact, capable of proof, that the member for Lisgar, in order to secure the Indian vote, promised that he would take all the chiefs down to Ottawa, have them feted and feasted, and get whatever amendments to the treaty they desired. (Cheers.) The Hudson Bay Company, on the contrary, never promised the Indians anything but what was fulfilled; and the whole history of the Red man, since the days of Columbus, shews nothing so successful as the rule of the Company. Whilst our American neighbours have been keeping up continual war with them the British Indian in Rupert's Land has lived peacefully, and quietly, and undisturbed; and whilst the most atrocious deeds had been committed on the south side of the line, the plains of the North-west lie all but unstained by the blood of the white man, (cheers,) and he hurled back to the honorable gentleman