

If corroboration of Father Lacombe's statements were required, it would be found in the actions and the words of the Indians themselves. Within the past few weeks, Crowfoot, the great Blackfoot chieftain, and several other Indian chiefs, have visited eastern Canada, have appeared in public in many places, and have uniformly, both in public and in private, asserted that their people were treated not only justly but generously by the Government. Father Lacombe has everywhere added his emphatic endorsement to the statements of the Indians.

This testimony comes from men living among the Indians, devoting their lives to the welfare of the Indians, disinterested as between the Indians and the Government; and it must be accepted as conclusive against the vague charges, unsupported by proper testimony, preferred by Mr. Cameron. Other testimony is forthcoming, less valuable for the special purpose in hand, because it is partly official and partly anonymous. This is made up of statements from a responsible officer in the public service and from journals supporting both political parties. Lieutenant Colonel McLeod, the Stipendiary Magistrate in Alberta, and as a judge, quite independent, writes to Commissioner Reed on March 4, 1886:

I have not the least cause for suspecting that frauds are being perpetrated by any officers of the department in this part of the territories. I do not hear such things hinted at or spoken of by people I meet.

It should be remembered that, though official testimony may not for certain purposes be so valuable or effective as independent testimony, Government officials write with a penalty over their heads. If they conceal, or distort, or deny existing facts, they are certain to be found out and as certain to be dismissed for their offense; as no Government could attempt to retain men guilty of prevarication respecting a matter of such public importance as the temper, condition, and treatment of the Indians.