

seen them doing this. It might have been because they were very curious or preferred dirty crusts and decaying meat to tender, well bled beef, but I did not think of accounting for their action that way. I know the eager look, the shrunken form, and the wolfish face that speak of want in the adult, and the wan, pinched face that speaks of starvation in the child; and I have seen them near Fort Ellice, Fort Pelly, the File Hills, and other places, and have had my sympathies drawn out towards the owners. I have seen Indians eating horses that had died of disease, when the flesh was half rotten. I have seen them picking up the entrails of animals about slaughter houses—when these entrails were fast decomposing—aye, and eating them without cooking, or even washing. They may prefer such carrion to good beef, well bled and cool when killed, but I doubt it."

That is the statement of Mr. Robertson, reiterated as late as this month, to which he attaches his name in the public prints, in reply to the question which one who had questioned his previous statements asked. He points to the fact which the member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron) has pointed to, that, in the documents which the Government themselves have submitted to the House, there are evidence of want and destitution among the Indians; and the hon. Minister says he does not doubt that there have been cases in which there has been a misappropriation of funds—perhaps that is not the term he used, but at all events irregularities and transactions that were blameable. What we have a right to expect is that that should not go on year after year. If that thing was found in 1881, and was repeated in 1882, as the records will show, and was repeated in 1883, as the record will show, and was repeated in 1884, as the record will show, and was going on in 1885, as I believe I can find inferential testimony, if not direct testimony, in the report of this year to show, I ask if the Government were not blameable in not instituting more rigid enquiries and taking more decided steps to prevent these abuses. I moved the other day for a return in reference to a report of experts to whom samples of flour supplied to the Indians has been submitted, having ascertained from previous enquiry that there were such reports in existence. The report was brought down, and I find that one of the medical attendants of the Indians under Treaty No. 7, reports that the flour supplied to the Indians there was unwholesome and unfit for human food, and, still more, that it was the cause of the death of a large number of those Indians. Is not that a serious charge? How was the gentleman dealt with who had that in charge? Let me read what Dr. Girard says in reference to the matter. I quote from the report, which is dated Fort Macleod, 6th November, 1883:

"Sir, After my visit to the Piegans I left for the Bloods, who were anxious to see me, for the sickness was raging among them, the same sickness as at the Piegans and Blackfeet, but not with the epidemic form.

"I visited their camps and some of their lodges, saw their sick, and gave near 200 prescriptions.

"Besides the common ailments in the last days I was there, I found many cases of bronchitis, caused by exposure to cold weather and want of good shoes for the rainy season.

"Since the 27th September over twenty deaths occurred on that reserve, and most of them from the same complaints—erysipelas, swelling of the glands of the neck, dyspepsia, &c.—on all the reserves. Except at the Stoneys, I found the houses of the Indians too close one to the other, and on the first occasion I will advise them to pull them down another year and to leave a space of about 100 feet or more between each house.

"The beef issued is of first quality, but the supply of flour is very poor and of bad quality.

"The instructor told me he used some and the dough, though prepared with hop yeast, makes a poor and doughy bread. The quantity now on hand will last till May or June next. I pity them."

Here were those Indians supplied with flour which was unfit for human food, and living upon that had brought upon them sickness, and there was a sufficient stock in hand to last from the date of that report, in November, till the June following, and the medical attendant who stated this adds: "I pity them." Now, I cannot go over the whole return, but I will read part of a memorandum submitted by the Deputy Minister to the First Minister with reference to this subject, in which he gives the analytical report of the flour supplied to these Indian. The memorandum reads as follows:—

Mr. PATERSON (Brant).

"In connection with the report of Dr. Girard, the medical attendant upon the Indians interested in Treaty No. 7, North-West Territories, to the effect that he considered the sickness that has prevailed among these Indians during the past year, which resulted, in many cases, fatally, attributable to the quality of the flour, the undersigned begs to report that he has obtained samples of the flour delivered by the contractors at the Blackfoot Crossing and the Sarcee Reserve, and has submitted them for test to experts in this city."

The result of the analysis of those samples of flour is as follows:—

#### ANALYTICAL REPORT.

"1st. Sample of flour from the Blackfoot Crossing. This sample marked No. 1 is not sound and should not pass inspection for grading. Either the wheat has been full of weeds, or the cleanings of the wheat have been ground into the flour; as there is a strong smell and taste of cockle, tares, &c., in it. We think there is frozen wheat in it also, but would not say positively. We do not consider this flour wholesome, and cannot put a price on it.

"2nd. Sample of Indian flour from the Sarcee Reserve, branded"—

It is better not to give the name of the brand nor the names of the contractors as, if I did that, I should have to read their correspondence with reference to that subject, and I do not wish to weary the House by so doing.

"This sample marked No. 2 is the lowest grade of flour, and is known by the trade as 'Red Dog.' Its value in Ottawa is about \$1.25 per 100 pounds, compared with superfine at \$2.25, or Strong Bakers' at \$2.75 to \$3 per 100 pounds. It is just one grade above mill feed."

Now there is a report upon the flour that had been supplied to these Indians, from experts in the city of Ottawa to whom the samples were submitted, after there had been a report from the Government's own medical officer that men had died because of this unwholesome flour. Is there not some neglect here? How did such flour come to be? The price asked for was for good flour, and here one of the grades is given as wholly unfit for human food, and the other grade is described as just one grade above mill feed. Those who are acquainted with the different kinds of flour will know what this "Red Dog" flour is, and it is reported to be just one grade above mill feed. Now, what did we pay for this flour?—for that question comes in. The Minister who just spoke said the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron) was on a different track last year, that he was then finding fault with the money that had been paid for supplies for the Indians. I think he did not do him justice there. I think the members of the Opposition have not objected to grants to destitute and starving Indians. But what they complain of is that the money that has been voted by Parliament has not been used to the best advantage, but that in many cases it has been frittered away, and as we think we are warranted in stating, that it has even been misapplied in some cases. The memorandum states that the contractors, whose names I do not mention now, which are mentioned here however—

"The contractors ——— were, under the contract, to deliver flour, equal in quality to No. 1 superfine, Toronto inspection; and they have been paid for doing so on the certificates of the agents in the following quantities, and at the following rates: 1,755 sacks, at \$8.25 per sack, Blood Reserve."

That is a sack of 98 pounds net, \$8.25.

"1,225 sacks at \$8.25, Piegan Reserve; 2,113 sacks, at \$7.50, Blackfoot Reserve; 266 sacks, at \$8, Sarcee Reserve. The total quantity delivered, and paid for at the above rates, was 5,359 sacks of 98 pounds each net; and this Department has been informed that this supply will be sufficient until the end of the present fiscal year, so that the whole quantity required for Treaty No. 7, has been supplied by Messrs. ———, of the inferior quality above described, for which they have received first-class prices, as also shown above, the whole amount paid them being \$41,683."

Mr. MITCHELL. Let us have the name.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). The hon. gentleman has asked me for it, and I will give it, but in doing so, I will be bound, in justice to the contractors, to read what they have to say hereafter, and which I did not wish to do in order to save time. The name is I. G. Baker & Co.

Mr. MITCHELL. I thought so.