

"I have thrown down the gauntlet," he replied. "If my letter is challenged I am prepared to substantiate every word of it, but not before it is contradicted. We have reached a certain crisis in the Indian question. There have been in the past grave irregularities in the Department, for exposing which I was denounced as a traitor and a liar, and brought twice before the conference of my church, but the verdict of the investigating committee always supported me. The Indians have been defrauded by the contracts not being carried out as specified in the treaty; and the Indian is being defrauded, and so is the Government, which is made to believe that the Indians receive a certain amount when they don't. But of course the Indian is the greatest loser."

Mr. Grier from whom I have already quoted says:

"That corruption exists is commonly reported and commonly believed. The fraud comes in by arrangement between the contractors and officials on different reserves. I can't give particulars. I know it exists. The money thus lost if expended on educating the young Indians would do a great deal of good. There is no use trying to teach the old, they won't learn."

This being the condition of affairs, one would naturally like to enquire into the expenditure of the enormous sums voted by Parliament to feed and clothe the Indians. It can be accounted for; a large portion of it can easily be accounted for. The Indian is charged with what he never gets; he is charged two prices for the articles he gets. He is charged with articles that ought not to be charged to him at all; he is robbed right and left by the officials and by the middle men, and that I propose to prove beyond possibility of dispute. The Indians, under Treaty No. 1, in 1833, 1834, 1835, according to the Sessional Papers, are charged with agricultural implements and tools, to the amount of \$863.50; Indians under Treaty No. 2, \$504.23; Indians under Treaty No. 3, \$1,178.71; Indians under Treaty No. 4, \$27,441; Indians under Treaty No. 5, \$2,346; Indians under Treaty No. 6, \$37,420.13; Indians under Treaty No. 7, \$22,581.99. The Indians under those seven treaties are charged in those accounts, in three years, with agricultural implements and tools to the amount of \$92,337.13. Now, Sir, according to the reports for 1886, the Indian population, resident on the reserves under Treaties Nos. 4, 6 and 7 was 12,102, and they had under cultivation 4,614 acres. It does appear to me extraordinary that an Indian population of 12,102 souls with 4,614 acres under cultivation would require agricultural implements and tools in three years amounting to the sum of \$87,444. And you must recollect, Mr. Speaker, that this was not all, because they are charged with large sums in the year 1882. I say there is something rotten here. It is simply incredible, it is simply impossible, that these Indians ever required or utilised implements costing so much in so short a period of time. Now, let us take Treaty No. 4. According to the Sessional Papers for 1884, the Indians under that treaty numbered, in 1883, 6,886, little and big, old and young, men and women, and yet in three years they are charged with agricultural implements and tools amounting to \$27,441. Did the Indians ever get those implements? I say they did not, or that if they did get them this expenditure was nothing more nor less than a scandalous and wilful waste of public money, voted by this Parliament to clothe and feed the Indian and keep him from starving or freezing to death. According to the reports, so far as I can discover, they had under cultivation, in 1883, 554 acres; in 1884, about 1,000 acres; in 1885, 1,590 acres, or an average of 1,000 acres in the three years; and yet, in these three years, for half cultivating 1,000 acres, they are charged with the sum of \$27,441 worth of implements and tools. Take Treaty No. 6. It appears from the Sessional Papers of 1885 that the Indians under this treaty in 1884 numbered 6,673. Under this treaty the Government paid for implements and tools in three years for these Indians \$37,420. There are not more than 500 able-bodied agriculturists in this band, and yet they are charged with this enormous sum. I say that 500 of the best farmers of Ontario who farm from 100 to 150 acres each, do not spend as much money in three years on farming implements and tools as we spent on this band of

Mr. CAMERON (Huron).

Indians. Now, according to the Indian Report for 1886, the Indian population of the North-West Territories resident on the reserves, numbered 12,102, and they had under cultivation 4,614 acres, and to half cultivate this land the Government charge the Indian account in three years with \$87,444 worth of agricultural implements and tools. All I can say, all that any man can say, on a subject of the kind is that these charges on the face of them bear the clearest possible evidence of fraud on the part of somebody. The Indians are charged with this sum; it is paid out of Indian moneys voted by Parliament, but I challenge hon. gentlemen opposite to show that half these articles ever reached the Indians. Is it not the fact—I charge that it is the fact, and I challenge them to a scrutiny; I challenge them to appoint a commission or a committee of this House to enquire into the matter—is it not a fact that in one of the bands numbering 1,150 families, they are charged in one year with 1,160 hoes, and the very next year this same band is charged with 1,014 additional hoes. Is it not the fact—I charge that it is the fact—that one band received in one year 50 ploughs, 320 scythes, 320 hay forks, and the very next year this same band are charged with 63 ploughs, 63 harrows, 140 scythes and 140 hay forks; and the following year this same band is charged with \$2,209 worth of ploughs, besides more scythes and hay forks, and \$5,490 of implements under contract. Will any man tell me that these articles ever reached the Indians? I say it is an outrage on common sense and decency; I say it is quite impossible that they ever reached the Indians, and I say further that if they did receive them, it was a wilful misapplication of the money voted by Parliament for the purpose of supplying the Indians with the absolute necessaries for the cultivation of the soil. The Indian was robbed and the country was robbed, and the only men who profited by it were the agents and the middlemen. I say still further: In the Sessional Papers for 1884, No. 4, as showing the extraordinary kind of items that this Government charge to the Indian account, I find that K. D. Graham is paid the sum of \$1,984 for medicines supplied to the Indians. That is not all, for there are several other men whose accounts are charged to the Indians for supplying medicine. I say that is enough to physic every Indian in the North-West twice over, and keep them physicked nearly all the year round. That is not all. In 1883 the Indian account is charged with \$3,630 for commission paid to those pets of the Government, I. G. Baker and others, as commission for advances made to the Indians. I ask you, Sir, and I ask this House, when the Parliament of this country liberally donated \$1,109,000 to feed, clothe and support the Indians, why we should pay the sum of \$3,630 as commission to I. G. Baker and others for advances made by them. The Government had the money, Parliament voted the money, it was in their hands, and it was their business to supply the necessary funds to purchase supplies; it was their business to have bought the articles for cash, and to have paid for them instead of having the Indian account charged with this sum in one year as commission for advances. This is not all. In the account for 1883, the enormous sum of \$26,312 is charged to the Indian account for the travelling expenses of the agents appointed by this Government over the Indians in the North-West Territories. And recollect, we supply these men with horses, buckboards, sleighs, and camping outfits and everything required for travelling; and yet there is this enormous sum of \$26,312 charged in one year for travelling expenses. I tell you, Sir, and I say it without fear of successful contradiction, that every agent in the service, from the Lieutenant-Governor down to the humblest farm instructor, can travel in the North-West Territories from the 1st January to the 31st December, all the year round, and not spend \$26,000. It is the cheapest country in the world to travel in. All you require is a