

the Dominion Government there. No doubt he has occasionally issued permits to the wrong men, and he has received great abuse for the permits he did grant. But I remember perfectly well when the first attacks against him were made. They came from Prince Albert, and one of the persons who attacked him told him he would drive him out of the North-West because he refused a permit to a club at Prince Albert, where there might be unlimited drinking of intoxicating liquors. That is how his unpopularity arose.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I think there is a difference between what may be permitted to an officer in new territories and responsible to us as Mr. Dewdney is, and what may be permitted to officers in a settled province. These officers, except on rare occasion, ought to be more wholly independent of us, and their relation to us bears no sort of analogy to the relation of an officer like Mr. Dewdney.

Mr. BLAKE. I do not think there is any comparison between the two kinds of officers. My own views may be rigid, but I think a person in the exalted position of a Lieutenant Governor, would be much better, even in a Province, to keep out of land speculations. I entirely agree that the position of Lieutenant Governor of a Province is entirely different from that of the Lieutenant Governor of Territories which are directly under our control, the lands of which are Crown lands, and in which questions affecting those lands are disposed of largely on his advice. I only repeat what has been currently stated for a long time, that Mr. Dewdney was charged with the selection of the town site of Regina, and that he had personal interest in lands which were very materially affected by the selection of that site. That shows the inconvenience of placing himself in a position of a landholder. Even though he may not have bought an acre of land from the Government, but from the Hudson Bay Company or private persons, he had the opportunity of influencing the decision of questions which would make those lands very valuable. Therefore, I think his position is entirely different from that of Lieutenant Governors in settled Provinces.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There is very much in what the hon. gentleman says. On a previous occasion I stated that Regina was selected by the joint judgment of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the Government. The company had laid out a plan for building a railway northward from this point to Prince Albert, and southward to the Turtle Hills to the south-western branch; they published a map with that purpose indicated, and we agreed that that would be the proper place to have a town. But Mr. Dewdney had certainly nothing to do with the selection of the place. After the Canadian Pacific Railway Company had selected this place as the crossing of the two roads Mr. Dewdney said he thought also that it would be a good place for a town; but at the same time I know, because he told me, that two miles off there was a Hudson Bay lot which he and his friends had bought.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). With reference to the main question, it is to be regretted that the First Minister was not in his place when this subject was brought before the House. It is also to be regretted that he finds it necessary to announce, without making a speech openly before the House and the people, where his statements can be scrutinised and criticised, that he will issue something like a manifesto with reference to the management of his Department. He says that is necessary because the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron) was inaccurate in his statements. I suppose he applies the same remark to those I made. All I can say is that they were based on records brought down from the hon. gentleman's own Department, and I made them in the presence of the Government in order to be set right, if on any point I was wrong. But if the hon. gentleman is to go through the papers of the Department

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.

and select such as he sees fit without giving us any opportunity of scrutinising them, we should like to know it. Whatever may be said of the statements made by the hon. member for West Huron or by myself, they were made in Parliament. In the presence of the Government, surrounded by their supporters, and here is the place where the answer should have been given. The First Minister has based his statements on the fact of the Indians about Fort Walsh being on their reserve; but he has not touched on the report of the medical officer with reference to the Piapot Indians who were just where he wanted them to be, and who were reported to be starving on their reserve.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Will the hon. gentleman issue this document over his own signature, or does he propose to make use of the officers of his Department? Because I can see that rather serious inconveniences will arise if gentlemen at the head of Departments call upon their officers to issue what is to all intents and purposes a political pamphlet. I do not object to the hon. gentleman making any speech or using any declarations when he sees fit, but I do not think his officers should do it.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I will take my own course about that; and it will be under my responsibility it will be issued. The hon. gentleman says the answer ought to be made here. It could not be given here, because we had to trace up the facts and the evidence of the statements of sundry agents which the hon. member for West Huron quoted. We had to see those agents and ask them what they meant. For instance, there was a statement respecting Mr. Lawrence Clarke, whom everybody knows. He says that the whole statement in the speech of the hon. member for West Huron is false; he used very strong language in that regard. Sundry clergymen have also stated that they have been quite misled. One of the charges brought was that a certain person had made a certain statement respecting frauds in the Department. On being asked why he made that statement, he said the only fraud he knew of was a fraud committed by Mr. Pope Nixon, an officer of the late Government, and that was what he referred to, and not to any recent irregularities. The evidence will show there never was a greater tissue of false statements. I would have been very glad to have laid the evidence before the House, but it was only the day before yesterday that I received it from the far North-West. It will, however, be published and distributed.

Mr. BLAKE. We will all be anxious to receive the exculpatory or explanatory statement of the hon. gentleman, but why should he not lay the material now on the Table before publishing it, since he has the material? The hon. gentleman had the right to make, from the evidence that reached him, what charges he chose, but on examining it we find the evidence altogether fallacious.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I must analyse it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Let us analyse it.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I must classify it under the different charges. You shall get the whole of the evidence I can assure you of that. I shall have it carefully prepared in narrative form and distribute copies to every member, besides furnishing copies to the constituencies.

British Columbia—Indians \$600 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Why is the salary of the agent, Meason, increased \$200? The amount of money in British Columbia which goes to salaries is perfectly unprecedented. Out of the sum we vote for the Indians, about \$4,000 reaches them and the balance goes in salaries.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The Indians in British Columbia are not the same people at all as the Indians east of the Rocky Mountains. They are self-sustaining, but