

European manufacture or growth, and of stipulating that a very large proportion devoted to each band on a reservation, should be applied to the purchase of agricultural implements and oxen, and the payment of native farmers competent to instruct them in cultivating the soil; instead of the present reserve of 160 acres among a family of six, I would suggest at least 160 acres to each individual, and stipulate that the reservation should be situated near some well-known fishing ground, and be far removed as possible from centres of white population and much travelled highways, and lastly, I would expressly stipulate that the most ample provision be made for his education in our language. If Honorable Gentlemen feel that to do this would entail too great a tax on the finances of the country, I would respectfully suggest that a reservation of one section out of each surveyed Township, as in the case of school lands, would by its sale at a time when its value had been enhanced by contiguous settlement, provide a fund which would materially lessen the amount necessary to be appropriated for the Indian Department.

A change from the policy which dictated the treaties of 1871 I hold to be actually necessary. I would regret much to be considered an alarmist, yet I declare from my place in this House my conviction, based on knowledge of the feelings of the Indians, that no more treaties can be made with them on those terms, and it is a question whether, till the existing dissatisfaction of the bands already treated with, be dissipated, they will make a treaty at all.

I have heard it rumored with a very great deal of satisfaction, that the Government propose to manage the Indian affairs of the North West mainly in Manitoba, and that instead of one Commissioner, there will be a board of three, one of whom will be the Governor of Manitoba and the North West Territories; if so, this is a step in the right direction, and I would earnestly suggest that this Board take early steps to enquire into existing causes of dissatisfaction among the Indians who made the treaties of 1871.

In conclusion I would remark that the Indian has had few friends; history has done little else for him than record the deeds which he has done in anger and when smarting under a sense of injustice. Poetry and romance have combined to throw a false glamour around his daily life, and it is only when we can be brought to consider that he is only now what our ancestors were not so very long ago, that he is swayed by the same impulses, governed by the same necessities as ourselves, that we are likely to accord to him the justice which is his due. As political economists we are bound to endeavor to prevent his either becoming a scourge or a pauper, and to make of him, if we can, a grain or stock-producing law-abiding citizen of the state; and should we, Sir, by the adoption of a sound Indian policy achieve such a result, I cannot but feel, that when Canada has taken that place among the nations, which her extent, her resources, and her position, will one day entitle her to, we can look back with pride and pleasure to measures which at least have accorded justice, possibly even produced lasting benefit, to a race who upon this continent are now fast passing into History.