

the commissioner was concerned. I have clipped from a newspaper an account of the meeting, and am going to trouble the House with it:

"In the summer of 1882, one of the most influential and powerful of the Cree chiefs, Pie-a-Pot was brought with his band at a very considerable expense from Cyprus Mountain to Fort Qu'Appelle with the expectation that he would go upon a reserve selected for him in that part of the country, as it was thought very desirable that he should be removed from close proximity to the United States frontier. Before going upon his reserve he bethought him of certain promises which had been made to him, but which had not up to that time been fulfilled, and he determined to have an interview with the Lieutenant Governor before committing himself further. There were many white men present at the interview which grew out of this resolve on the part of Pie-a-pot, and all must have been impressed with the very brusque and disrespectful manner in which the great chief was received by Her Majesty's representative. Pie-a-pot was repeatedly accused of lying, and that in a most offensive manner, but in each instance the weight of evidence appeared to be quite as much in his favor as in the Lieutenant Governor's. At length the chief said, 'I was promised a horse and buckboard, and I have not seen them yet.'

"Who promised you that?" brusquely demanded Mr. Dewdney.

"The man who is speaking to me," replied Pie-a-pot sneeringly.

"Not quite understanding the meaning of his answer, Mr. Dewdney repeated the question, upon which Pie-a-pot answered with very deliberate emphasis, pointing with his finger as he spoke, 'You made me that promise, and there is your own interpreter who heard you.'

"The interpreter, on being referred to, confirmed Pie-a-pot's statement, when the Lieutenant Governor, reddening, as well he might, made matters worse by saying:

"Well, if I made you that promise, it was on condition that you should do something for me."

"Yes," answered Pie-a-pot, "it was on condition that I would get Little Pine and Lucky Man to take the treaty, and perhaps you remember whether they did or not."

Now, be it remembered that when this pitiable exhibition of the veracity of the Lieutenant Governor was being made, a large number of the Qu'Appelle Indians were present, and it may well be guessed that such a circumstance did not go far toward strengthening their respect for the Government and its institutions.

I say that statement is absolutely correct, and yet this man is allowed to fill the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Not long ago I called the attention of the Government to the unfitness of Mr. Dewdney for the high position he holds, I was told by the First Minister that he was a reader of character, that he had known Mr. Dewdney for many long years and was satisfied that he had the right man in the right place. The hon. gentleman was not prepared to take the advice of anybody, but was determined to keep Mr. Dewdney in the position he now occupies, the responsible duties of which he is unfitted to exercise. His self-seeking, his brusque and uncourteous manner, his business transactions and relations in the North-West—all render him a man exceedingly dangerous to be kept in such an important position as that of the Lieutenant Governor of the North-West Territories and Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The Government have been made aware of this over and over again; the press published in the interest of hon. gentlemen opposite have frequently drawn attention to it. Let me read you what the *Winnipeg Times*, the favored organ of hon. gentlemen opposite, on the 5th January, 1883, said:

"But the cross of gold is not Mr. Dewdney's god. He is eminently a philanthropist. His delight is to advance the interests of the savage and promote the welfare of the more wretched white man under his sceptre. For example, when Long Lodge, chief of the Assiniboines, who were camping last summer near Indian Head, complained that the contractor's bacon, costing the Canadian taxpayers nineteen cents per pound, was not suitable to the Indian palate, the Indians feeding always on buffalo meat; when Long Lodge offered to accept half a pound of steer beef costing a York shilling a pound dead weight, in place of a pound of bacon costing nineteen cents; when Long Lodge said the bacon was 'hurting his people because it was not their food'—Mr. Dewdney said 'the Indians should eat the bacon or die, and be d—d to them.' This was not said in haste but at his honor's leisure. He did not say it because his friend the contractor, who happened to be in a land syndicate with him, had 90,000 pounds of that bacon to dispose of, but because he wished to indoctrinate the savage with the tastes of the average white man. Mr. Dewdney, let Piapot witness, is the Indian's friend. To the white man also he sets a noble example. He teaches the raw settler a new code of morals. He shows him by precept and example that in these degenerated days it is not necessary for a man holding a trust not to abuse it. He illustrates in his own walk and life the modern principle that every man should fight for his own wallet. He is, in this great country, the most signal exemplar of the science of how to get along regardless of the means or methods of locomotion. Mr. Dewdney, therefore, deserves well at our hands and at the hands of the Indians of these Territories. It would hardly be appropriate to present him with a home-stead, for he has several, also pre-emptions in abundance. Money would also be out of place, inasmuch as while Sir Leonard has a surplus and Sir John remains in power, he will not want. Could anything be more appropriate than to present him with a petition to leave, to get out, to go elsewhere and teach other Indians and other white men the ethics of grab, greed, and shamelessness which he has introduced here?"

This is an article from the press supporting hon. gentlemen, and, notwithstanding this warning, and in defiance of the Mr. CAMERON (Huron).

protests of the friends of the Government, this man has been retained in his place. Notwithstanding these solemn protests, these warnings, these direct and specific charges against Governor and Indian Commissioner Dewdney, he continues in office. The consequences have been serious to the country. What services has this man rendered to the Government of the country that the peace, the progress, the prosperity of the North-West, and the lives of the white settlers in the North-West should be jeopardised in order that Governor Dewdney might fill two offices and draw two salaries. It cannot be on account of his courage, because everyone who knows anything about the North-West knows that it has passed into a proverb in that country that, the moment there is anything like Indian discontent, Governor Dewdney is found in the city of Winnipeg. Let us see what the *Minerve* says, not of Governor Dewdney, but of the head of this Department:

"If their grievances have not been redressed before, the fault lies with the Interior Department. \* \* \* The Department of the Interior, against whom they rise, is, to speak frankly, the cause of these disturbances. \* \* \* Let the Department of the Interior bear the responsibility of its own actions."

*La Presse*, the organ of the Secretary of State, dealing with this question of responsibility for the rebellion and who ought to be condemned, convicted and executed, declares that:

"After having avenged our national honor and restored peace, it will remain for us to study the line of conduct to be followed to prevent a repetition of similar catastrophes. In the first place we want a Minister of the Interior with sufficient strength to fulfil his duties."

A correspondent of the *Globe* of the 13th April, 1885, writing from the scene of action, says:

"The Indians were unfairly treated, and beginning to murmur, but he thought his personal popularity would be sufficient to protect him. While his own relations with Mr. Dewdney were cordial and pleasant he was almost alone in this respect. Mr. Dewdney was altogether too high and mighty for the settler. The settler had no grievances which he (the Lieutenant Governor) need trouble himself with, and so there was no getting near the seat of power. Still, all these disadvantages would be remedied in time, and the people felt if they were only permitted to live there they would persevere and things would right themselves ultimately."

The *Winnipeg Sun* says:

"The following resolution was put before a meeting held at Wolseley last week, called to form a home guard. It was moved by a leading Conservative: 'That it is the opinion of the meeting that it is now time for the Government to take decisive action, and that their first shall be that orders be issued to hang Riel to the first tree when he is caught, but if there must be delay that it shall only be long enough to capture Dewdney, and hang the two together.' The chairman refused to put the motion, but as it was seconded he was forced to do so, and it was carried."

Mr. John Stinson says:

"I left Qu'Appelle in December last, and this rebellion was quite an expected long before that time. Riel was back in the country in July last, and it was well known that he was agitating and organising for some mischief of this kind. But the authorities both in the North-West and at Ottawa disregarded all warnings and made no effort to stop the rebellion, as they should have done, before it assumed an organised form. If the half-breeds and Indians had received anything like just treatment there would have been nothing of this rebellion. But the powers that be by their action towards those people invited the rebellion. Governor Dewdney made promises to them which he did not fulfil. This is the reason that the Indians call Governor Dewdney and Sir John 'Old To-morrow,' the idea being that they never do anything they promise. They took more stock of truth than of any other virtue, hence to make them a promise and then break it wrecks their confidence. All the Indians and half-breeds and most of the whites dislike Governor Dewdney, and harmony cannot be attained without his removal."

Now I have shown you, I think, very clearly from public documents and other sources that the Indians of the North-West Territories have been badly treated. I have shown that, by reason of that treatment, they became dissatisfied, discontented and rebellious. I now propose for a few minutes to deal with another question. I say that it does not lie in the mouth of the hon. gentlemen opposite to say that this outbreak in the North-West Territory was unexpected, that it was without cause, that it was without warning, that it was an outbreak of which hon. gentleman had no notice, an outbreak wholly unpremeditated. I have shown you that the grievances complained of by the half-breeds of the North-West Territories and the Indians were grave and serious, they were of the first possible consequence to the parties interested, their prompt settlement was of the first possible consequence to the peace, good order, pro-