

That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the action taken by the Government and payments made or recommended, since the report of a former Select Committee presented to this Honorable House on the 17th March, 1881, by the Honorable Mr. Read, chairman, and adopted by concurrence of the Whole House on the following day, in relation to "the circumstances of a debt alleged to devolve upon the Dominion Government by the British North America Act, and said to be now due to the Honorable Benjamin Beveridge, James Tibbets and others, but the payment of which is withdrawn for some cause unknown," and that the said Committee be composed of the Honorable Messieurs Montgomery, Read, Lewin, Trudel, Robitaille, Dever and the mover, with power to send for persons and papers.

He said: I need not make any speech about this matter. I brought it before the House some years ago, and I only ask now to have a committee appointed for the purpose mentioned in the resolution. I may say that I take this step with the consent of the Government.

HON. MR. POWER—I do not rise for the purpose of opposing this motion, but I think that the Senate should have a little more light on the subject before being asked to adopt it and appoint a committee. It appears from the resolution that a Select Committee of this House was appointed in 1881 to consider the matter which forms the subject of this resolution, that the committee made an investigation, that they sent for persons and papers and went to some expense in connection with it, and that they made a report recommending certain action by the Government.

HON. MR. GLASIER—Recommending the full amount of the claims be paid. We only ask now why it was not paid.

HON. MR. POWER—I did not particularize the action they had taken: they recommended that the claim be paid by the Government. It seems to me that when this House had done that, it had done its whole duty in the matter. I do not think it is the duty of the Senate to inquire how the Government have acted, and I do not see why we should be obliged to send for more persons and

papers in connection with this claim. The hon. member should look to the Government for his remedy. They have not carried out the recommendation of this House and he should set himself to work to worry the Government to the best of his ability and not trouble the Senate any more with the subject.

HON. MR. GLASIER—I have taken this step after consulting several members of the Government.

HON. MR. POWER—That looks as if they were trying to shirk their responsibility for not acting on the recommendation of this House.

HON. MR. SMITH—I cannot take any responsibility, as a member of the Government, in this matter until I have further information. This is the first I have heard of it, and until I can consult my colleagues, I will not be in a position to give a proper answer to my hon. friend. I do not think it will jeopardize the claim to let the motion stand until I get further information.

The motion was allowed to stand until to-morrow.

THE METLAKATHLA INDIAN TROUBLES.

MOTION.

HON. MR. MACDONALD moved—

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General; praying that His Excellency will cause to be laid before this House, copies of the reports of the Commander of Her Majesty's Ship "Cormorant," and of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for British Columbia, relative to the agrarian troubles last winter at the Indian Reserve of Metlakathla, together with all correspondence during the years 1886 and 1887 between the Dominion and Provincial Governments on the same subjects.

He said—This motion deals with an important matter: it deals with the grievances of a large number of civilized Indians in British Columbia. I intend to reserve the remarks which I wish to make on this subject until the papers come down. I hope they will be laid on the Table of the House very early. The

HON. MR. GLASIER.