

March 31, 1873

pensioning public officers, but he could not see why members of the Civil Service should not be expected to provide for their families as well as other people.

Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD hoped his hon. friend (Mr. Joly) would allow the debate to stand adjourned to a future day as the whole question of salaries of officials and granting relief to the Service was under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. JOLY saw no objection to allowing the matter to stand, but he still held that the deductions to be made in the future would be sufficient to provide for all public officers to be superannuated, and therefore the balance of \$50,000 ought to be divided among those who had subscribed to the Fund.

The debate was then adjourned.

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INDIAN DISSATISFACTION

Mr. SCHULTZ moved, seconded by **Mr. BOWELL**, that an humble address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor General, for copies of all correspondence from Indians and others in the Province of Manitoba with the Government on the subject of the dissatisfaction prevailing among the chiefs, head men and Indians treated with in Manitoba and adjacent territories in the year 1871.

Mr. SCHULTZ: I have made this motion, Mr. Speaker, mainly to enable me to place before this honourable House some facts in connection with the Indians of the Northwest which I trust will be considered of sufficient importance, at least, to cause hon. gentlemen to investigate for themselves a subject which, for the first time, has become a really important one in this country.

While everyone felt pleased when the long negotiations between Canada and the Hudson's Bay Co. came to a satisfactory termination, and proud of the Imperial proclamation of the 15th July, 1870, which added 300,000 square miles to the area of the Dominion, few remembered that this territory had a population of 68,000 Indians whose rights, by the conditions of the transfer, we were bound to recognize, and to whose care and protection we were firmly pledged.

These Indians were, as yet, lords of the soil. Canada has incurred the responsibility appertaining to these lands, and while appreciating that future which awaits her, she would grapple with the question of filling these newly acquired valleys with the teeming population of the old world. We have projected railways over them and canals through them. We have taken steps to make the rocks yield their riches and varied contents, and the rivers their golden sands.

Discussion after discussion has taken place in this House from apparently every possible point of view in regard to the development of this region, but I totally fail to remember one single

word that would indicate the slightest consideration for those who are now happy and content on its hunting grounds, and whom the carrying out of these projects means, unless a wise legislation interferes, gradual but sure destruction. Population and railway communication we must have, but let us never forget that the cuttings of the railroad will desecrate many an Indian burying ground, and that the plough of the settlers adding its line will pass through many an Indian hearth that is burning with fire today.

At this moment there is a condition of profound peace among the Indian tribes north of the International boundary. In any part of this vast region the life of a white man is safe. They are absolute owners as yet of their hunting grounds. The half-breeds, it is true, are allowed to participate as a right common with themselves, but parties of Englishmen and others hunting for pleasure are compelled to pay a royalty for the privilege of the soil.

I mention the fact of this state of peace which exists among the British Indians because of the contrast to the state of affairs in the Indian country of the United States. There the most ordinary surveying party has to be protected by a strong detachment of troops, and a condition of things exists which would seem to show that all faith between the contracting parties to treaties has passed away and that the strife will only end when the last Indian has uttered his death cry. Hon. gentlemen will admit that the contrast is great; and I respectfully submit that there is no public question of the day more worthy of the consideration of this House than the determination of a policy which will ensure a continuation of the peace which is in existence and an avoidance of these Indian wars, which are always characterized as brutal outrages and which are an enormous expense.

Allow me to cite one instance, among many such which have occurred in the United States. West of Red River and south of the boundary line, is the country of the Sioux Indians, corresponding to our Cree tribe who occupy a similar geographical position on our side of the boundary. These tribes are about equal in numbers.

Both are Indians of the prairie, practised horsemen and excellent shots.

Ten years ago this tribe of Sioux were in as profound a state of peace with the United States as the Crees are now with us, but a grievance had been growing. The conditions of their treaties had not been carried out; remonstrances to their agents had been pigeon-holed in official desks; warnings from half-breeds and traders who knew their language had been pooh-poohed by the apostles of red tape, till suddenly the tale of the massacre of 63 re-echoed through the land. Western Minnesota was red with the blood of the innocent, and for hundreds of miles the prairie horizon was lit with burning dwellings in which the shriek of children and women had been silenced by the tomahawk of the savage.

The military power of the United States, was, of course, called into requisition, but the movement of regular troops was slow, while that of the Indian was like that of the Indian. In the dead of the night they appeared, and in the morning the sun rose on the