

of the public and of the Indians of the band for whose use the reserve is held, that the Indians should be removed from the reserve or any part of it.

Other sub sections make provision for a full investigation of the merits of the case by a judge of the Exchequer Court, for the valuation of the land of the reserve, and for the sale of that land by auction, the proceeds to be for the benefit of the Indians solely. Provision is also made for securing another reserve for the Indians, and in every way, so far as the judgment of the Government of the day and of Parliament was concerned, provision was made on the responsibility of the Government of the day, and by the administration of the Indian Department to meet exactly such cases as that of the Kitsilano reserve so as to secure the removal of the Indians, but also to secure that removal subject to the last Indian getting the benefit of the last cent that was in the property from which he was being removed. Provision is also made for safeguarding the personal rights of the Indians. It must be a matter of regret to the House and to the country that, having to meet a condition such as was contemplated when this amendment to the Indian Act was framed, the Government did not see fit to avail itself of the provisions of that Act, but instead saw fit to allow the British Columbia Government to deal with the sacred rights of those Indians in that land as though it were an ordinary real estate speculation. Let me say, Mr. Speaker, that these provisions of the Indian Act received full consideration at the hands of Parliament before they became law, and they were not forced through by a government majority or by the use of provisions for closure, but by common consent of Parliament, as being necessary to meet cases such as we recognize to be in existence and as providing means whereby they could properly be met in consonance with the dignity of Canada and with the rights of the Indians.

Mr. BRADBURY: This was the fruit of that amendment. That amendment should never have been made to the Indian Act in the interests of the Indians, and that was pointed out to my hon. friend when he was pressing that matter through.

Mr. OLIVER: I think my hon. friend had something to say on the matter, but I do not think he pressed his objections to the point of voting against the Bill. He was in the same position as he occupied on many other occasions, and as many of his friends occupied, who talked to square themselves with the country, but who did not vote to back up their expressions. Be that as it may, a large number of his friends spoke on that subject and not only

supported the principle of the Bill, but declared it was not drastic enough, that it paid too much regard to the interest of the Indians. If my hon. friend thinks that this Act does not take proper care of the interests of the Indians, what has he to say to the action which has been taken by the Government of British Columbia either with the knowledge and consent of this Government, or without its knowledge and consent? I ask him what he has to say? In that case we would be glad to hear from him.

I might say further, Mr. Speaker, that in connection with the transfer of the Songhees Indians from their reserve in the city of Victoria to a reserve outside, the arrangement made between the Dominion Department of Indian Affairs, the Government of British Columbia, and the Indians was sanctioned by a statute of this Parliament, came under the review of Parliament and received the endorsement of members of Parliament, a large number of whom spoke upon the subject. In view of the fact that the conditions surrounding that transfer were not in all particulars all that could be desired, in view of the fact that provision was specifically made to meet those conditions in future cases, and having regard especially to this very Kitsilano reserve, in connection with which the Government has seen fit to ignore the very existence of that statute, and so far as our information goes, to allow the rights of these Indians to be treated as though they were the rights of an ordinary real estate speculator, to be bought out on any terms or at any price that could be secured—and I have here statements as to the means that were taken to secure those rights—I think I would not be doing full justice if I did not inform the House in regard to them. The threat of the Attorney General of the province of British Columbia, with the authority of the Government to the Indians, the threat made by him on the evidence of the Indians themselves, that they must either take the price he was offering them, or take nothing, calls for more than explanation; it calls for investigation by the Department of Indian Affairs, and for investigation without delay. In my humble judgment these circumstances required that justice should be done between those Indians and the Government of Canada, standing with the good faith of Great Britain in its hands and that this transaction should not be allowed to stand. There is no reason why the good faith which has been shown to the Indians of this country ever since the British Government undertook to control its affairs, should be less in evidence to-day than in the past. The mere fact that the Indians have ceased to be a serious factor in the