

were put in charge of the North-west Mounted Police. I believe that General Middleton was in command of the Government troops in that country at the time, and that he and another gentleman in the Indian Department, Mr. Hayter Reed, took possession of those furs—I think evidence was brought before this House to that effect. However, I happen to have a letter here that I received the other day from Mr. Warden, who is in the Indian Department. But before I read this letter I must say that it was very strange that Mr. Warden at that time, although he was a Liberal and not in sympathy with the party in power, received a Government position. I do not know why he received this Government position, because it was the first case in which a Liberal in the North-west Territories was appointed to a position by the Conservative Government. The position, however, was only a small one, worth \$600 a year. We also know that a gentleman named Mr. Clink, another Liberal, was appointed as Indian agent at a salary of \$1,200 a year. Well, it was obvious to us that these gentlemen must have been possessed of certain information which they did not wish to give at the time of the investigation, and for that reason we assume they must have been given these positions. Now, however, things have changed, and Mr. Warden has written me a letter in connection with the Bremner seizure, which I will read to the House :

Battleford, 26th April, 1897.

T. O. Davis, Esq., M.P., Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 13th instant, re Bremner furs, I beg to make the following statement :—

In the summer of 1885, just after the rebellion, Mr. Hayter Reed and the late Mr. Bedson came to my room, at the Q. M. store, Battleford, about four o'clock in the morning, saying they wanted to get some of the furs lying in the store, as the General had confiscated them. They wanted a parcel put up for the General, and one each for themselves. I told them that as soon as the storeman, Constable Dorion, came in, he would attend to their wants. Dorion came in about 5 a.m., and I told him to give these gentlemen what furs they required, and that he could pack them in some of the empty saddle-boxes. Dorion, Reed and Benson then went to the storehouse and packed the furs. Some time in the forenoon, a team came from the steamboat landing, and took the three cases away to the steamboat.

Now, Sir, I think that goes to show that Mr. Hayter Reed and Mr. Bedson, two Government employees, took those furs. I do not know what you call it here, but the people in the North-west Territories would call that stealing. I claim that it is the duty of this Government to see that this man is remunerated. Those furs were taken by an agent of the Government, and I think the Government is legally and morally bound to pay that claim. I read a great deal of the discussion that took place on this subject some time ago, I think six or seven

years ago ; I read the speech that was made by the Hon. Mr. Blake, in which he went all over the facts, but I claim that his speech was not to the point. If Mr. Bremner had been a rebel, it might have been all right ; but he was not a rebel. Bremner was a loyal citizen, and as such he should have had the protection of General Middleton for his life and his property. But in place of that we find General Middleton, and others with him, took this man's property. Now, I claim that as he was a loyal citizen, he had a right to the protection of the Government troops ; his property should have been protected, but it was not protected, and was taken from him. Therefore, I think the Government are justly bound to pay this man's claim. There are precedents for this. The Government has paid some millions of dollars of claims of people in the North-west Territories, whose goods were taken ; we do not know who took them, and still the Government has recognized those claims as legal. We know that at Batoche they paid the claim of Navier Batoche, amounting to \$20,000 ; they paid a certain gentleman by the name of Solomon Venne \$15,000 ; and they paid a gentleman by the name of Baptiste Boyer. We find that all those gentlemen were belonging to the faithful, while other men who did not belong to the faithful have not to this day got one cent for the property taken from them. Now, I claim that if it is right and just for the Government to pay a million dollars for those claims in the North-west Territories, then it is right and just that this man, not being a rebel but a loyal citizen, should be paid the same as any other citizen.

Mr. LISTER. Some years ago the claim of Mr. Bremner was brought to my attention and I deemed it my duty as a member of this House to call the attention of the then Government and Parliament to the claims of this man, who, in my opinion, has been most unjustly dealt with. Prior to the rebellion of 1886, Mr. Bremner had been for years a successful fur trader in the North-west Territories. At the time of the breaking out of the rebellion he was a man in very comfortable circumstances as a result of his own labour and industry for years before. When the rebellion broke out Mr. Bremner had in his possession the whole catch of furs from the previous winter, amounting, according to my information, to some \$7,000 or \$8,000, furs of a very valuable character indeed, as the House will understand when I say they amounted to that sum of money.

The rebellion broke out. Bremner was at one of the points, with his stock of furs, preparing to send them to market, and without any notice whatever officers in command of the Canadian forces seized his furs and arrested him as a rebel. He was taken to Regina and imprisoned for months. When