

has passed away. In his report for 1878, Mr. E. McColl, inspector of agencies, wrote as follows:

To say that the Indians are entirely satisfied with the manner in which the terms of the several treaties have been carried out would be saying what is inconsistent with their character. To complain is a chronic feature of their nature. I am forced, however, to admit, from personal intercourse with them, and from abundant data at hand, that the manner treaty stipulations has been observed in this superintendency in the past has given them just ground for complaint. They have been furnished—by no fault of the Government, which paid the price of prime supplies and implements—with inferior and old worn-out cattle, or cattle too wild for working or dairy purposes, and with supplies of all kinds of the most inferior quality, which would not be accepted at any price by the ordinary consumer.

That is the report of an official appointed by Mr. Mackenzie, immediately after that gentleman had retired from office.

But the cases of wrong-doing on the part of the officials and of injustice and hardship to the Indians have been comparatively few. When irregularities have been reported investigation has been held and the injustice, if any, has been remedied. Ministers have earnestly desired that the money appropriated by Parliament for the benefit of the Indians shall be expended with the utmost care for economy, and so as not only to secure to the Indians all their treaty rights, but to protect them from present suffering and so to encourage them in habits of thrift and industry that they may at the earliest possible moment cease to be dependent upon public charity. These benevolent intentions have been carried out, save in the few exceptional cases referred to, with zeal and discretion. As a rule the rights of the Indians have been religiously respected, and their welfare has been in careful and wise hands. It is true that they complain. Mr. McColl, as has been seen, says that "to complain is a chronic feature of their nature." And there is too much reason to think that they have been encouraged to complain by men who had the interests of the Indians less in view than the political effect of Indian dissatisfaction and even Indian warfare.