

would be disregarded. Had such a policy obtained there would have been no deception and no heavy annual expenditure for Indian annuities. Such had been the policy of British Columbia and it had worked well.

MR. MACKENZIE : I am quite surprised to hear the hon. gentleman, who has just taken his seat, and who was so very zealous of his own rights and the rights of the people of British Columbia, a few nights ago, propound so inhuman a theory regarding Indians.

MR. DECOSMOS : We know them better than you do.

MR. MACKENZIE : I do not think the hon. gentleman knows them as well as I do. I have lived close to Indians for nearly a third of a century, and I know they respect the rights of other people a great deal better than many whites do. If we had pursued the course the hon. gentleman has propounded as the right one, we would have had Indian wars desolating the whole country. I maintain that we have no right to the soil until we arrange with those who inhabited the country originally, and if we have paid too little for the lands that was the fault of the negotiators. I propose to amend the motion by adding the words :

"Also a copy of the memorandum of the Minister of Justice upon which the Lands Act of the British Columbia Legislature was disallowed, and also any correspondence between the Government of Canada, the Commissioner and the Local Government, in reference to the allotment of lands to the Indians."

MR. DECOSMOS : I am not one of those who have any wish, neither have I ever advocated, that Indians should be treated other than as human beings. On the other hand I have no wish, nor do I propose, that Indians should be treated any better than white men. If an Indian wishes to cultivate land, let him have it on the same terms as a white man. With regard to the fisheries, I am opposed to their having privileges which are not accorded to white men.

SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD : Of course it is the duty of Parliament and the duty of the Government to protect the original occupants of the soil against new comers. We are having the same experience in British Columbia as we have always had in old Canada. The whole thing is a question of management.

MR. DECOSMOS.

The Indians should be protected, but at the same time the progress of any large section of the country should not be impeded by the enforcement of any philanthropic idea of protecting the Indian even against the attempt to win him from his semi-savage customs. As far as the Commissioner, Mr. Trutch, is concerned, he resigned his office, and his successor has not been appointed. Mr. Trutch is still, however, acting as agent for the people of British Columbia, and the Government expect shortly to receive a report upon the subject.

MR. MILLS : I do not think, if the hon. gentleman looks at the report that the Commissioner has from time to time submitted, that he will find the quantity of lands set apart for Indians is at all extravagant. If the reservation have not been confined to any particular locality, it is simply because it was not possible to find sufficient arable land in one place. There has been no complaint so far, as I know, from any white man in regard to lands to which he was legally entitled, but cases have arisen where the local Government had issued patents to parties who had gone into the centre of an Indian reservation, or upon other lands to which the Indians had claims by long and continuous occupation.

MR. BARNARD : I think the remarks I made were not properly understood. The settlers of British Columbia do not complain of justice being done to the Indian. What we complain of is that great injustice is being done to white settlers, by awarding much larger tracts of land than the Indians can have any use for. It is estimated that as much as 3,000 acres of land has been given to each adult Indian in Nicola Valley, and in Okanagan the land granted is also excessive, according to an estimate made. There are only 400 Indians, men, women and children, say 100 families at eighteen acres of arable land for each family as agreed, making 1,800 acres. Owning 500 head of cattle, and being allowed twenty-two acres per head, they are entitled to 11,000 acres of pasture land, making a grand total of 12,800 acres to which they would be entitled. The quantity agreed to be given them, however, is in the vicinity of 41,000 acres, not in one or two reserves, but taken in sections and