

necessary protective forces for itself, the burden of which would fall upon the country for whose use it was raised, as was the case in the rest of Canada.

This mounted police would protect the frontier, prevent smuggling, and do other services in connection with the inland revenue; and in case of any outbreak would, in conjunction with the militia, be sufficient for the military purposes of the Dominion.

The difficulty of settling with the Indians, he was afraid, was greatly increased by the injurious advice given by the traders who came across the line. They went to and fro, they had no settlement in the country, and they were therefore under no restraint. They traded with the Indians, and for their furs and other wares gave them arms, ammunition, and strong drink. They flattered the Indian and excited him, advising him to ask unreasonable terms from us. These we had to meet with firmness, and to let the Indians understand that they would get fair compensation for what was asked from them and no more.

The Ministry was fully aware of the difficulties they would encounter and all the responsibility they would incur, when they took the country. The only true way to do this was to be just to themselves and just to the Indians. There was no objection to the appointment of the Commission. (*Cheers.*)

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE:** Is Mr. Simpson not a Commissioner now?

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD:** No; he has resigned. He (Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald) requested to be permitted to make a remark about that. It has always been the aim that the Governor should be considered the principal in making these treaties, so far as the Indians were concerned. The Indians looked up to him as representative of the Great Mother, the sovereign, with respect and admiration, and the cocked hat and red coat were of considerable importance in their eyes. (*Hear, hear, and laughter.*) If Mr. Simpson had put on a little more of the pomp and circumstance of government he would have been more successful among the Indians.

The plan of the Government with respect to both Manitoba and British Columbia was to appoint a Commission composed of the Lieutenant Governor, the officer at the head of the Land Department (Mr. Lindsay Russell), and an Indian Commissioner, subject to introduction from the Government here, which would consider all matters of importance connected with Indian affairs. They would form a council of advice, and their Indian agent proper would be their executive officer, carrying out the principles laid down to him by the Board and the Government of the country. (*Cheers.*)

**Mr. SCHULTZ** observed that if Governor Archibald had made promises to the Indians without the authority of the Government, and which he was unable to fulfil, he had committed a very serious error. Above all things good faith should be kept with the Indians. He had been informed by intelligent Indians that, after the Treaty

was signed, the Indians were told that certain things would be given them which were not given them. It was of very great importance that promises made to these Indians should be faithfully kept, because the Crees further west, with whom we would have next to treat, were blood relations of these Indians, and were watching how they were to be dealt with. He hoped the Commissioner to be appointed would enquire into the causes of dissatisfaction at present existing.

**Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE** hoped there would be no enquiry into dissatisfaction with accomplished treaties. There would be no end of trouble if the Indians got an idea that a treaty could be broken on account of their complaining of it. He agreed generally with the remarks of the leader of the Government (Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald). He hoped the Government would give every attention to the prevention, if possible, of the sale of intoxicating liquors among the Indians. (*Hear, hear.*) He had occasion to notice the reverence with which Indians regarded treaties. He had seen a venerable Chief who showed him a treaty 50 or 60 years old, and had pointed out several clauses under which they had claims, and they looked upon that treaty as a sacred document and had most entire confidence that the Government would fulfil it, that good faith that Government had always kept. The Indian was our real security in the Northwest. (*Hear, hear.*)

He regretted that the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Schultz) and to some extent the member for Marquette (Mr. Cunningham) had spoken in such a way as to encourage the Indians to suppose that if they desired to break up the Treaty they might succeed. He was glad to hear the remarks, on that point, of the leader of the Government. It was of the last importance that a treaty already made should be enforced. If we found that we had not dealt liberally enough with the Indians, we might supplement the treaty of our own motion, but not in consequence of any demand on their part.

**Mr. SMITH (Selkirk)** suggested that one of the Commissions should be a half-breed, having a practical knowledge of the country and of the Indians.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** said it was important that this Board should be composed of Government officials directly responsible to the Government. (*Hear, hear.*) They might obtain very valuable assistance from the half-breeds and others who were acquainted with the Indians and their language, and these services would of course have to be paid for.

The motion was then carried.

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#### ST. JOHN MORNING NEWS

**Mr. PICKARD** moved for a statement of monies paid to Mr. Edward Willis, proprietor of the *Morning News*, St. John, New Brunswick. He wanted to find out whether this man was a hireling or not. (*Laughter.*)