

gentleman is the Rev. E. R. Young, and the statement to which I refer appears in a report of a lecture delivered by him in the Bloor street Methodist Church, Toronto. When we see in a paper like the *Globe*, a statement purporting to have been made in a Wesleyan Church, in Toronto, we are likely to believe that it was made as represented. However, I could not conceive that it was possible such an assertion could have been made, and I will read for the information of the House what Mr. Young is reported to have said :—

“ Those men who had been sent out to deal with the Indians had tried to make as good a thing out of it as possible for themselves while there.

“ Within the past few years the country has spent over a million dollars on the Indians. Allowing that there were 33,000 Indians in the North-West, this amounted to about \$30 per head. But the Indians only received \$5 per head, and the country had been paying \$25 a head per Indian to the officials who distributed this allowance.”

This quotation is embodied in an editorial based on the report of the lecture, published the day before. I asked myself, can it be possible that such a statement was made? I am well acquainted with the gentleman who is said to have made the statement. He is a minister of my own church, and he has lived eight or nine years in the North-West. I wrote him a letter asking him if the statement that I had seen in the report of his speech in the *Globe* of Friday was substantially correct. His reply I will read to the House ; it is as follows :—

“ In reply, I beg leave to state that the report of my lecture in the *Globe* of last Friday is about as correct as such reports generally are, which is not saying a great deal. The leaving out of a great deal, and the putting of such a sentence as that about the Indians only getting \$5 per head, and the country paying \$25 a head per Indian to those who distribute this allowance, is very misleading.”

That is all he said on that question. I have looked into the papers since to see if over his own signature he has denied the statement, and I have not been able to find that he has done so through the press. If he did not make the statement that was published in the *Globe*, I think he ought to deny it. The rev. gentleman knew what he was talking about, because

he stated the number of Indians there were in the North-West, or about the number, and he also knew the amount of money the country was expending. It amounts to \$33.50 per head for each Indian man, woman, and child that receives assistance under the treaties.

HON. MR. DEVER—In what way? Per annum?

HON. MR. READ—Yes, \$33.50 per head is the amount paid by the country per annum. This gentleman states in his letter the amount of money which is expended. He has evidently taken it from the Public Accounts, because he says the actual figures are \$1,025,605.80, and of this large sum he says the Indians only receive the sum of \$170,749.50. I cannot find there is any truth in that statement. I cannot charge him with saying anything more, only when people lecture in a church where their statements cannot be confronted it is well that they should at least know what they are talking about, especially when they are dealing with such subjects as this ; because if this report in the *Globe* were read to the Indians in the North-West in their present excited state, and they were told that the press of the country was saying that the distribution of the Indian money cost \$25 a head, while the Indians are only getting \$5, it would be very apt to excite them, especially if there was any truth in it. It would be well to consider where this money goes. I think, from everything I can gather, having taken some pains to look into this matter, it has been rightly expended. If there was any dereliction of duty, or if any direct charge could be brought against any of the officials under the Government, it would be the duty of the Government to investigate it at once. But these statements go abroad and people are led to think that possibly there may be some truth in them, unless they are denied. I think that is a sufficient reason, if there was nothing more, to bring this matter before the House and the country, because, before I am through, I will show where this money goes and will prove that this \$1,000,000 money is not thrown away upon officials, but that it is honestly distributed amongst the Indians.

HON. MR. READ.