

nated from the city and an arrangement was entered into between the Government of British Columbia, the Indian Department of the Dominion Government and the Indians whereby a payment of \$10,000 per family in cash was made to the Indians and a reserve of approximately equal area was secured for their occupation to be vested in the Dominion Government in fee simple for the benefit of that particular band of Indians. In that case, as in this, the Indians were given the ownership of the cash that was paid to them, to dispose of as they pleased, but they were not given the ownership of the land of their new reserve which was to them a large part of the purchase price of the old reserve, so that the band had the guarantee of land of their own for all time to come under the superintendence and management of the Department of Indian Affairs. They did get absolute control of the cash to the amount of \$10,000 a family which was paid to them for the relinquishment of their rights. The Liberal Government was in power at the time and I was Superintendent General of Indian Affairs. I must assume my share of responsibility for that transaction but I will take the liberty to read to the House what I think will be accepted as evidence that while there were strong reasons for this transaction being entered into there is also very strong evidence that it had very undesirable features, which features are accentuated in this sale of the Kitsilano reserve. The Vancouver Sun of April 4th says editorially:

When the Songhees reserve at Victoria was sold each head of a family received \$11,000, about the same sum offered the Kitsilano people. The results of their coming into possession of so much money have been deplorable. In the brief two years since the sale a large number of them have spent every cent of the purchase money they received; many of them have died from the immoderate use of liquor, which, in spite of the prohibitory law, they found no difficulty in procuring so long as their cash lasted, and one case is reported where an unlucky individual, while overcome with liquor, was literally roasted alive.

That was the experience resulting from the transaction in regard to the Songhees reserve where only one-half of the purchase price was paid in cash and the other half in land. In this case the whole purchase price is paid in cash and there has been no effort on the part of the Dominion Government to in any way protect the personal welfare of the Indians who have made this sale. Not only that, but there has been apparently no effort to protect; the Government disclaims all knowledge of the transaction. In regard to the purchase price of this reserve, it is impossible to say just what the value is. There is, however, information that the price paid was

Mr. OLIVER.

something less than one-quarter of a million dollars. We have information that there was at that time a standing offer to the Department of Indian Affairs in Ottawa of an amount very much larger and assumed in these newspapers to be up to one and a half million dollars. One estimate of the value of the property is placed at seven million dollars. Now, let the property be worth a quarter of a million dollars, one million dollars, two, three, four, five or seven millions dollars, the point I want to emphasize is that the property was exceptionally valuable and that the Government of this country was not keeping faith with the Indians on the one hand or the Imperial Government on the other when it allowed this transaction on the part of the provincial government to go through whereby that property becomes, according to the government papers of British Columbia, absolutely the property of the government of that province at a price paid to the Indians of less than a quarter of a million dollars. Comparisons are odious but I think that the transaction of my hon. friend the Minister of Public Works with his friend Mr. Donaldson pales into insignificance when compared with this transaction whereby the lands of this Kitsilano Indian reserve are placed at the disposal of the Government of British Columbia for a matter of a quarter of a million dollars.

I take the liberty of placing before the House the fact that when the transaction in regard to the Songhees reserve took place it was recognized by the Government of the day that this transaction or transactions of that nature had seriously objectionable features. It was considered to be a matter of urgency that this reserve should be got rid of. As far as possible at the time the exigencies of the case were met and the interest of the Indians was protected. But it was amply recognized that such a method of dealing with Indian reserves was undesirable, and, in view of the fact that there were many other reserves in almost identical positions in British Columbia and elsewhere, it was considered that a definite policy should be entered upon for the disposal of Indian lands so situated. Accordingly the Indian Act was amended to meet the case. An amendment of the Indian Act was assented to on May 19, 1911, and in that Act provision was made that where an Indian reserve

Adjoins or is situated wholly or partly within an incorporated town or city having a population of not less than eight thousand, and which reserve has not been released or surrendered by the Indians, the Governor in Council may, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent General, refer to the judge of the Exchequer Court of Canada, for inquiry and report the question as to whether it is expedient, having regard to the interest