

have been. One firm, Liberals of course, and represented by the son of a defeated Liberal candidate has apparently the entree on this island and they are cutting the timber there not in chords but the most valuable timber in sawlog lengths. There is no use denying this because I know it myself and have seen the timber brought into Midland on a large barge. If you are going to give a tip that only one man can go on the island, well and good, but if you are acting in the interests of the Indians, let there be open competition for the timber and make it a condition of sale that the Indians shall be employed. If the minister will make inquiry he will find that my statement is correct. It is a matter of complaint among the other lumbermen that they cannot get a look in.

Mr. OLIVER. I will make inquiries.

Mr. BENNETT. And let me know what quantities were cut last winter when you go into Supply again.

Mr. HERRON. Let me assure the minister that I had not the slightest intention of making political capital out of my remarks about the grazing land. There is no question about it but that there are Conservatives mixed up in the matter, and if I wanted to make political capital I probably would not mention it. I simply stated the fact that there was dissatisfaction on the reserve and that fact has been represented to me by men on whose word I can rely. If the minister investigates he will find that my statement is perfectly true. There were a great many transactions with reference to McEwan & Co., or whatever their name is obtaining that lease.

Mr. OLIVER. Name the transactions.

Mr. HERRON. There are persons living on the lower part of the Blood reserve who offered almost as high a rental for half the reserve as was given for the whole reserve.

Mr. LAKE. They offered more.

Mr. HERRON. There are two or three ranching companies who spent a great deal of time and money there and who were promised they would get leases of that land but they were ignored. I stated in this House last year that a certain man in Ottawa obtained a contract for supplying 600 head of cattle for the Blood reserve at \$28 a head, when far better cattle could be bought on the ground for \$19 a head and were offered to the government at that price. The minister will see that there are many things in connection with this business that political capital could be made out of much stronger than anything I have mentioned.

Mr. OLIVER. I am not suggesting that my hon. hon. friend (Mr. Herron) is talking politics; I refer to the member for Qu'Appelle who butted into something he did not understand. If my hon. friend (Mr. Her-

Mr. BENNETT.

ron) has knowledge of any breach of the contract by the lessees I want to know it. If he knows there is anything wrong he should inform the House or the department of it.

Mr. LAKE. I am ready to admit that I know more about the question now since the hon. member (Mr. Herron) has spoken. The hon. member (Mr. Herron) knows that country thoroughly and is conversant with all its conditions and he states that the upper half of that reserve is better than the lower half, so that the offer of \$3,000 per annum made for the lower half is a better offer on the face of it, the number of cattle not being stated, then the offer of \$5,000 for the whole reserve.

Mr. OLIVER. You cannot arrive at a conclusion as to which was the better offer unless the terms of the offer are known.

Mr. LAKE. So far as I can see from the correspondence the department was putting these people off with the answer that they were not in a position to deal with the matter while they at the same time were making an agreement with outsiders to the exclusion of the settlers living in the neighbourhood. The minister professes to be in sympathy with the people living in the neighbourhood, but here were people living in the neighbourhood—

Mr. OLIVER. Some of these people in the neighbourhood were trying to exclude their neighbours.

Mr. LAKE. I have proven everything I started out to prove and the minister has plainly demonstrated by his answers that he is not conversant with every thing that has taken place in the matter.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Does the minister propose to handle the lands in the same manner as for the last ten years, namely, to sell them at an upset price fixed by the department or at private sale?

Mr. OLIVER. The minister intends to handle the lands as they are being handled to-day.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. The minister must know that out of 650,000 acres he has disposed of 500,000 acres at an upset price fixed by the department or at private sale. Some days ago I showed that the Indian lands have been disposed of at ridiculously low prices ranging from ten cents an acre up. I showed that about 650,000 acres had been disposed of for about \$15,000.

Mr. OLIVER. Does my hon. friend suggest that the land was worth more than the department got for it?

Mr. ARMSTRONG. I say that the lands should be put up at public auction.

Mr. OLIVER. I understand that my hon. friend is a man of means. If these lands