

there was no starvation amongst the Indians.

HON. MR. SCOTT—The statement was made by a member of the North-West Council in the presence of the Lieutenant-Governor.

HON. SIR ALEX. CAMPBELL—I have no doubt it was, but similiar statements reached us from other sources entitled *prima facie* to great credit: and when we come to enquire into them by our own agents we found that they were not true. No doubt the Indian has suffered since the disappearance of the buffalo, but still not in the way or to the extent the hon. gentlemen apparently would desire the house to believe. The treaties which have been made with the Indians, and which have been faithfully and accurately observed ever since, show that the Indians have been supplied with what was thought by them and us essential to keep them above and beyond want. I think the efforts of the Government in that respect have not only succeeded but that we are entitled to some credit for having so earnestly and constantly persisted in them. No doubt sometimes the Government are deceived by agents, and some maladministration takes place which the Government does not hear of at the time: but we rapidly do become aware of it. There are not only agents, but there are inspectors of agencies who go round and report whether the agents are doing their duty: and these men see the chiefs and find if there are any complaints. Every effort is made commensurate with the resources of the country to prevent starvation want and suffering amongst the Indians: and I think we have succeeded in preventing these great calamities and that apart from the disappearance of the buffalo they are not suffering from want. But there are other sources of discontent—for instance, being kept away from the chase and having nothing to do. Then, again, it has turned out upon some occasions, that the character of the food which has been given them is not such as they like or desire to have. For instance, it has been found difficult to supply the Indians with fresh beef. It was attempted to remedy that by supplying them with good pork and ex-

cellent bacon. They admitted it was good of its kind, but they disliked the kind. I do not think we are remiss in respect to our treatment of the Indians. I was glad to hear my hon. friend say that he thought Canada was enjoying a fair degree of prosperity. I think it is too, but my hon. friend runs away with theories which he can never avoid discussing when prosperity is mentioned as to whether it is due to the policy of the Government or to some other cause more deep and more at the basis of national prosperity. The Government has not, in this speech, taken any credit for it. I have invariably, I think, declined, or tried to decline, discussing these questions with my hon. friend; but I think he will agree that we are quite right in trying to enjoy the prosperity and take it from whatever source it may come. I think myself—if I may be allowed to have an opinion on the subject—that it is partly owing to the Protective Policy, as well as to the deeper causes, to which my hon. friend alludes. My hon. friend finds fault with us for the delays with regard to the Fishery question, and blames us for not having stopped the Treaty rights abruptly in July last. What good could have resulted from that, supposing we had stopped the Americans from coming within our limits last July? It would only have increased ill-feeling amongst the people of the United States. Congress was not sitting, and it seems to me nothing could have been more likely to bring about disagreement with the United States than by taking the course which the hon. gentleman suggested. We said, although the Treaty ended in July, yet we will allow fishing to go on until the end of the season, with the understanding that the President of the United States will, when Congress meets, try to bring about the appointment of a commission to settle not only the Fisheries, but also all trade questions between the two countries on some liberal basis. What the hon. gentleman suggested we should have done, would have prevented any return to the relations which have been so happy and useful between the two countries. If we had taken the step which he suggests, we would have been obliged to send cruisers to those waters and stop the fishing within the three miles limit, and we might have