

case remanded in order that he might have opportunity to consult a lawyer and make his defence. But this remand was refused by the agent who, as magistrate, tried the case. Taking it all round, it seems to me this was a very arbitrary piece of work. The stockmen of that locality may wish to ship cattle this year. They might be shipping even now, or any time during the fore part of the winter. I would like to know if this matter has been brought to the attention of the department, and, if so, what steps have been taken to protect the cattlemen and give them an opportunity to ship their cattle at that point.

Mr. OLIVER. The matter was brought to the attention of the department when it occurred, and we have had the inspector of agencies visit the locality to make a report. I would not like to express myself further in regard to the matter until I receive the inspector's report. But I can assure my hon. friend (Mr. Herron) that the interests of the cattlemen who ship at that point will receive every consideration, subject, of course, to the rights of the Indians.

Mr. HERRON. I would like to impress upon the minister very strongly the importance of a settlement of that question to the people in that locality. As I have stated this reserve is surrounded by stockmen, and this is the only point between Lethbridge and the Crow's Nest Pass where they can ship, selling by weight. In shipping at that point, they are doing no injury to the reserve or to anybody, and I am sure that it is in accordance with the public interest as well as to their own advantage that they should have an opportunity to ship on this Piegan reserve.

Mr. OLIVER. I have no doubt I shall be able to give the result of the report received when we get into other estimates of the department.

Mr. STAPLES. In previous sessions, I have called the attention of the minister to the case of the town of Swan Lake in the province of Manitoba, and have urged that he should acquire the Indian reservation at that point. I would like to know what progress is being made in this matter. This is a matter that I have brought to the attention of the minister every session of this parliament. He has given me his promise that he will do his utmost to try and acquire this particular reservation in order that it may be settled up by a class of agriculturists who will advance the interests of this particular town and locality. I would like to know what success the minister has had in arriving at a settlement with the Indians of that reservation.

Mr. OLIVER. I had a special agent visit the reserve comparatively recently and within a few days we received his report. He was not able to get a surrender of the

whole reserve, but he was able to get a surrender of about one-half of it, and I think it would be well for us to accept the terms in regard to the part that he was able to secure a surrender of.

Mr. STAPLES. Will the hon. minister tell me what portion of the reserve he has been able to get a surrender of?

Mr. OLIVER. The sections on the north and west sides of the reserve.

Mr. STAPLES. I presume the minister will be able to give me full information about it in a few days?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes, I can by to-morrow or the day after, if the hon. gentleman will allow the matter to stand until then. I will bring down a sketch and memo, as to the proposed surrender and lay it on the table.

Mr. STAPLES. That will be very satisfactory.

Mr. LAKE. Has the minister made up his mind that he will sell the surrendered portion of the Crooked Lakes reserve?

Mr. OLIVER. The reserve is now surveyed and we can sell it at any time. Our intention was to sell it in the spring. We thought that, perhaps, under all the circumstances, during the present fall the best price might not be realized, and that we might be able to do better in the spring.

Mr. CROCKET. I would like to ask the minister if the department has on file any report in regard to the proposal for the removal of the St. Mary's reserve opposite the city of Fredericton to a location more distant from the city?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes, our information is that the Indians will not consent to the proposed removal.

Mr. CROCKET. The Indian Commissioner, I believe, has very strongly advised it, has he not? Of course it cannot be accomplished without the consent of the Indians.

Mr. OLIVER. If it is an Indian reserve the Indians have absolute rights so long as they choose to assert them, and we are not in a position to remove them except with their consent.

Mr. BLAIN. Does Mr. MacRae, the Inspector of Agencies, make a written report to the department?

Mr. OLIVER. He reports in writing each inspection that he makes.

Mr. BLAIN. Perhaps the minister will be good enough to lay on the table the most recent report.

Mr. OLIVER. Does my hon. friend wish to mention any particular report?