

Mr. LAKE. In 1901. The prices realized for the land were below its value. Most of the land was bought by three gentlemen who tendered through a legal firm in the city of Toronto. I think all but ten of the quarter-sections which were put up for sale were brought by them. There were 308 quarter-sections put up, and these three gentlemen from Toronto were able to secure all but ten of them. The prices they paid ranged all the way from 50 cents, 75 cents, 80 cents, 90 cents, \$1 and up to \$2.50 per acre. In one case I think a section was sold for \$3 per acre. These are very low prices for a lot of land which was considered to have a good deal of value. There was no local competition, and consequently the land was practically given away. The ment was considerably more than the land by the officials of the Indian Department was considerably more than the land brought. I think at that time land was being sold right alongside these sections by the railway company for \$3 an acre. The report of the agent in charge was that the land was worth about \$3 an acre all through, yet it only fetched from 50 cents upwards. A great part of the land did not bring more than \$1. There were 47,000 acres sold at that time. There had been some good offers for the land previously from people who wanted to come in and make a bargain with the government for the whole area. Another similar case took place with regard to the reserve near Battleford. The gentleman who was to conduct the sales only had notice at 10 o'clock in the morning of the sale. The sale had to open at 12; he only knew of it at 10 and although he hurried around and put up all the posters he could very few people knew of the sale, the attendance was small, the prices realized not high and it was his opinion that the small prices realized were on account of the sale not having been sufficiently advertised. The minister has said that the sale of the Crooked Lakes reserve will take place this fall. I would impress on him the necessity of fully advertising it all through that district where the people know its value. I doubt if the newspaper published at Broadview, the nearest point, would be on the patronage list and if the advertising is restricted in the usual way it would be a mistake.

Mr. OLIVER. Whatever may have been the mistakes in the past we propose in the future to give ample advertising with plenty of time. I may not be altogether unprejudiced in the view that newspaper advertising should be freely employed, but I believe it is economy and I am glad to have my hon. friend's endorsement.

Mr. STAPLES. What about the section of land near Indian Ford on the south side of Assiniboine river, have there been negotiations?

Mr. OLIVER.

Mr. OLIVER. Yes, but I understand there are several bands, some of them not resident there, who have claims on the land and as the proceeds of the sale would be a small amount to distribute among so many, they do not care to make a sale.

Mr. CLEMENTS. Is it the intention of the government to secure a surrender of the Indian reserve adjoining Fort Pelly?

Mr. OLIVER. There are two reserves there, one at Kamsack and one at Fort Pelly. We have no surrender in regard to the Keys reserve but we have a surrender in regard to the Cote reserve.

Mr. BENNETT. Did Mr. Peter Ryan receive the ordinary fee of one-quarter of one per cent of the proceeds of the sale of the Dokis Indian reserve the other day?

Mr. OLIVER. Yes.

Mr. BENNETT. That would be about \$2,000 that would be paid to Mr. Peter Ryan for selling the timber on the Dokis reserve?

Mr. OLIVER. About that.

Mr. BENNETT. Does not the minister think that is a pretty large amount of the money of the Indians to pay for bringing that gentleman out of the registry office in Toronto down here and giving him a job for a day? Does he not think that Mr. Ryan could have been induced to ascend the rostrum for an hour for less than \$2,000? It is putting a slight appreciation on members of parliament, who are compelled to sit here for seven months for \$2,500. I do not think that there is any reason why the Indians' money should be spent in that way.

Mr. OLIVER. I am credibly informed that the percentage that has been paid by private persons for selling timber limits in the Ottawa valley and also by the Ontario government—

Mr. BENNETT. But that was in the old times of the Ontario government. That does not happen now.

Mr. OLIVER. I am informed that private owners having valuable limits to sell have paid, not only one-quarter of one per cent, but two and a half per cent, on whatever was realized over the upset price. In our case we paid one-quarter of one per cent right through. I made careful inquiry into the matter, and I took the action that I did on the results of this inquiry. It is not fair to make a comparison between the wages that an auctioneer receives for the short time that he is employed and the wages that another person receives when his employment is by the year or for a longer term.

Mr. BENNETT. The minister must have known about what the fee would be when