

the officials of the Indian Department and succeeded in securing land, some of which was worth—under the admission of the Minister himself—fifty dollars an acre, for one tenth of that sum."

"The Minister of the Interior responsible for the administration of the Indian Department, Mr. Oliver, made a remarkably weak defence. In some respects it removed a certain amount of obliquity from his shoulders, for the simple reason that he appeared to be so ignorant of the transaction that he could not have been personally cognizant of the details. **However, it does not remove the stigma which rests upon the head of the department, so loosely administered that such a scandalous transaction could be put through.** Hon Mr. Oliver, took refuge in abuse of the member for Selkirk, and repeatedly made assertions that the latter didn't know what he was talking about. But before the Minister got through his three and a half hours' speech, it was quite evident to everyone in the house, that the shoe was on the other foot, and that he knew so little about the transaction that he constantly blundered over the facts in endeavouring to make a defence."

The Winnipeg "Telegram".

The "Winnipeg Telegram" commenting upon the St. Peter's Indian Reserve scandal, said,—

"In rejecting the Bradbury resolution, condemning the Government's course in the sale of the land of the St. Peter's Indians, the majority of the Commons at Ottawa acted in a manner to be expected, and **gave its approval to the contemptible swindle perpetrated upon the poor Indians.**"

"The Minister of Interior replied to charges backed by positive evidence, by declaring that these charges were an attack upon the intelligence of the Parliament. Absolutely nothing to controvert Mr. Bradbury's accusation was brought out by Mr. Oliver. The documentary evidence offered by Mr. Bradbury, was dismissed with the superheated statement that it was a part and parcel of the persistent tirade of unwarranted assertion. The Minister of Interior made no effort whatever to answer affidavits proving that this robbery of the St. Peter's Indians had taken place under the eyes of his agents.

"Robbing a blind man, a widow, or an orphan, or stealing coppers from the poor-box, is a species of meanness to which class this thievery of the lands of the helpless Indians of St. Peter's Reserve seems to belong.

"Mr. Bradbury has performed a public service in uncovering the record of such a swindle. The people of Manitoba have been acquainted with the facts of this outrageous robbery, but one looks in vain for any symptoms of disapproval on the part of the local opposition or its organ. To them it is a trifle that the Indians should be wronged so long as the Government heelers in this province profit.

"No one can read the letters addressed to Mr. Bradbury by the three St. Peter's Indians, one of them an ex-chief, without feeling that a gross injustice was done this people in the sale of their reservation lands. **No manlier service** was ever done on behalf of the deceived community than that performed by Mr. Bradbury, the member for Selkirk, when he called the attention of the House of Commons, to the thievery practiced by agents and servants of the Ottawa Government in connection with this surrender. Especially is this so when one realizes that the Indians have no votes, consequently Mr. Bradbury could gain no political advantage by the manly defence he put up on their behalf."