

is a Dominion government which with reference to Indian lands has one right and one right only. What is it? As trustee for the Indians to see that the Indians' rights are respected, and that they get all that they ought to get under any manipulation or sale or change of lands which were at one time their reserves. That is the duty of the Dominion government and the duty of the Dominion government absolutely ceases when it fairly conserves and watches over and supervises the interest of the Indians in the lands which belonged to them as reserves. The Dominion government did that and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway approached the provincial government in order to get a section of lands there and were repulsed; the provincial government refused to give up their rights in those lands. The company were not able to make a bargain with them and they came to the Dominion government, and all that they could fairly treat with the Dominion government for was the easement of the Indian rights in the lands that the Grand Trunk Pacific proposed to buy. They came to a satisfactory conclusion between themselves. The Grand Trunk Pacific got 13,000 and odd acres of land and paid \$7.50 per acre for it, not to the Dominion government, but to the Indians through the Dominion government, and the very moment that transaction was ended there ended all the rights and powers and proper administrative action of the Dominion government. The moment that was done, as it seems to me, that very moment those lands became the property in reversion of the provincial government and their property only. Everything else was cleared out of the way and the Grand Trunk Pacific should have gone to the local government and said: The Indian title is cared for, we have paid \$7.50 an acre; we have our papers with reference to that matter; now, these lands belong to you, can we make a bargain and sale with reference to these lands? But what does the Dominion government do? Sometimes it is said that when His Excellency invites a man to his hospitality his invitation is equal to a command. The Dominion government invited the province of British Columbia in the matter of the disposal of its own property in which the Dominion government had henceforth no interest at all because it had looked after its interest so far as the Indians were concerned, it notified through its action the provincial government to do what? To make a present of the lands which they owned to that corporation, the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company, to wit. In doing that it seems to me that there was a great deal of the command as well as the invitation. The invitation itself was an interference with business with which the Dominion government had no right to interfere, but they did so interfere, and when they asked the government of

British Columbia to absolutely make a present of those lands to the Grand Trunk Pacific. Why were they so interested in getting for a corporation what had been most munificently dealt with a present of 13,400 acres of land from a comparatively poor provincial government? Why had they any right to interest themselves on behalf of his corporation?

It is one more instance of how this government, in their policy and administration, have marched side by side with the corporations and for their interests which they formerly denounced when they were in opposition up and down through this country. They could not allow the Grand Trunk Pacific, poor, little, inferior corporation that it is, poverty stricken, without any rights and franchises to speak of, to go single-handed to the provincial government and do its own work on a fair business basis. This government must intervene and send their invitation—equivalent to a command—to the provincial government to give over these lands without a cent of compensation to this province. In doing that I think they went beyond their role. Equivalent to a command, was it? The punishment follows quickly. The invitation was not accepted. Mr. McBride did what he thought was best for his province and he said: No, these lands are valuable, I do not propose to give them up. Immediately, or shortly after, an election takes place. Certain high officials are brought down from the far north country—the Governor of the Yukon amongst them. Salary paid, travelling expenses paid, he comes to the seat of government, he comes to the Dominion centre, he colloques with the Dominion ministers, the whole matter is talked over and again ducks and drakes are made with high positions and the man is translated from his governorship—whether the pay has ceased or not I do not know—and sent with all his honours and prestige almost as a direct messenger of this Dominion government to the province of British Columbia to undertake and continue a campaign of extermination against the provincial government on purely provincial and local issues. And that is done with all the force and power of this Dominion government as far as its gifts and patronage are concerned behind the 'emissary who was sent as the high plenipotentiary of this government. That is the command which follows the invitation, that is the big stick which says to those who would stand by the rights of their own property in the province that they must yield, that is the big stick that is shaken over them saying: You would not comply with our invitation; then, in the words of the hon. Minister of Inland Revenue (Mr. Templeman), we will see that you are turned out. The only conclusion that you would take from the words of the minister was that they propose to turn the government out. Now, sir, I say that this is an interference which is not only against