

cashied it. On receipt of this cheque from Tracy I touched a pen. There was a paper lying on the desk. It was not read to me, nor do I know the contents. I do not understand English. I am an old man, nearly ninety years of age. There was nobody present to interpret, consequently I did not know the contents of any paper which Tracy may have signed when I touched the pen. This was the only time I was ever asked to touch the pen or sign any paper in connection with the sale of my land. If my name has been signed, or my mark placed on any other documents, it has not been done by me. At that time Tracy told me that from then on he would make the monthly payments, and for me to come to him every month. This I did, and received from George Tracy cheques for \$6 each month for 18 months in all, not including the two \$6 orders I had received from the agent to the store. Including these orders I received a total of twenty orders or cheques for \$6 each a total of \$120 for my property, which should have been 32 acres that I should have received from the government, 16 acres for myself, and 16 acres for my wife, and at \$10 an acre the price agreed upon by the agent would be \$320. This at \$6 per month would have entitled me to receive monthly payments for 53 months instead of 20 months which is all I received from the agent and Tracy, a total of \$120. When Tracy gave me my last cheque in August, or maybe a month before, he did not tell me that this was my last payment, but the next month when I went for my cheque, he told me then that I had received all the money that was coming to me. This was a great surprise to me, as I had expected my payments to continue for a long time. I now find that I only received less than \$4 per acre instead of \$10 per acre that J. C. Lewis, Indian agent had agreed to give me.

I now feel that the Indian agent has not only not protected me but he has deceived me so that I have lost my home.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canadian Evidence Act.

His  
CHARLES X TRINDLE.  
Mark

Declared before me at the Town of Selkirk, in the Province of Manitoba, this 21st day of December, 1909.

C. Finkelman,  
Commissioner.

In support of that affidavit I hold in my hand an account rendered by Mr. George Tracy, which appears in a return ordered by this House. In the account there is the question of this very land which this man speaks of. Mr. Tracy has an account against Trindle, and in that account he credits Mr. Lewis, the Indian agent, with having made the first three payments on this land. I do not think the hon. minister can ask any further evidence to prove that his Indian agent was a party to this transaction. We have the declaration of

the old man himself, and Lewis's colleague, George Tracy, in the account he rendered, admits right on the face of the account that Lewis made the first three payments himself to this Indian. Just before leaving this matter, I want to say that is one account out of eighty-six which this man Tracy had against the Indian. He managed to have dealings with these men after he realized that they were going to be possessed of valuable land, and that these lands would be at their disposal. His accounts aggregated something like \$13,000, and I have no hesitation in saying that for 25 to 50 per cent of this amount the Indians received no actual value.

Before I take my seat I think I will be able to satisfy the minister that this statement is absolutely correct. This man only charges Trindle with having received \$160, but he received it in six payments according to Tracy. An old man of 90 years of age admits that he got twenty payments of \$6 a month, and this man charges him at the very beginning of the account with a \$35 cheque issued to Captain William Robinson's store. I am satisfied this man never received that cheque, and all through this man's accounts the same story is told. The Indians have been wronged right under the eyes of the Indian agent, and I am afraid with the assistance and connivance of the Indian agent. Now, I have here an affidavit from a poor Indian woman from whom this agent bought land in the first place, and I will read it:

#### TESTIMONY.

Dominion of Canada,  
Province of Manitoba,  
To wit:

Flora Bella Wesley.

In the matter of the St. Peter's Indian Reserve and of the sale of the Indian lands in the said reserve.

I, Flora Bella Wesley, widow, of the parish of St. Peter's, in the province of Manitoba, do solemnly declare:

That I am a member of the St. Peter's band of Indians, and in the matter of my allotment of land under the terms of the surrender effected September 24, 1907, I was entitled to 16 acres of land, 16 acres each to my two boys, and 16 acres to my daughter, 64 acres in all.

A few months after the surrender, and before the proper allotments were made, I sold to J. O. Lewis, Indian agent at Selkirk, 32 acres of my land situated inside the limits of the town of Selkirk for the sum of \$5 per acre, part of which I had to receive in cash and part in goods, but I am quite unable to say what amount I received on this sale.

I also made a sale to William Frank of 16 acres, and for which I was to receive \$125, but only received from him the sum of \$35 in all, \$23 in cash, and goods from the store to the value of \$12. The balance of \$90 Mr. Frank informed me he could not pay me as George Tracy had claimed it for debt.