

tural that some greater power be given to the department to deal with what are materially larger sums for the Indians than there were when the Act of 1898 was brought into force.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—The Indians deserve the first consideration above every white man and every settler. It is their country, and they are a helpless people requiring the fostering care of the government and they should not be robbed of an acre of land to please any white man.

Hon. Mr. JONES—I should be glad, if the department thought it workable, to see a condition in the law providing that where a tribe dispose of a part of their reserve or all of their lands if they will, should they dispose of such portions as will leave them less than 160 acres each, then to that extent, it should be made up by a reserve elsewhere. Some scheme of that kind might be considered by the department. I think it will become a necessity, because there are a number of reserves where it will be in the best interests of the tribe themselves, as well as in the interests of the country that they should be treated in that way, give them what will be to them a very considerable sum of money indeed, and in lieu of the remainder such land as will be worth more to the Indian than the land he has now.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The explanation given by the Minister of the Interior in another place indicates that he thinks it is only reasonable that some of the vast values which are held in land in trust for the Indians should be turned to account instead of coming to parliament for the money. He said that he did not wish to advance 50 per cent of the purchase price unless it was necessary to do so to procure a sale of the land, recognizing that it is better that the Indians should have the money in fund and only receive the interest from year to year. But where it was desirable in the interest of a growing town to secure lands, the urgency of the case must, to some extent, govern the action of the department.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—A good deal of argument has been advanced, it seems to me, with the idea that I or those who have spoken upon this question were

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opposing the principle of the Bill. That is not the difficulty I have in reference to it, my only objection was to the payment of the 50 per cent of the proceeds of the sale of these valuable lands. Unless great care is taken it will be found that the same harpies will hover around the tribes when the money is paid as were in evidence when the scrip was given to the half-breeds. Some people managed to find out that this scrip was to be issued and they were thus placed in a position to secure a transfer of it at very low prices. The Indian has no idea of providing for the future, if he can satisfy the needs of the moment, that is sufficient, and if the band gets this 50 per cent the fear I have is that it will fall into the hands of just such characters as those who robbed the half-breeds of their scrip.

The SPEAKER. There is nothing before the Chair.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I move that the Speaker do now leave the Chair.

The motion was agreed to.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the Bill.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—The chairman will observe that we have already fully discussed the provisions of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. THIBAudeau (Rigaud), from the committee, reported the Bill without amendment. The Bill was then read the third time and passed.

COURT OF APPEAL FOR MANITOBA BILL.

SECOND READING.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT moved the second reading of Bill (195) An Act respecting the Court of Appeal for Manitoba. He said: This Act is to come into force so soon as the Act of the legislature of Manitoba passed at the session thereof held in the 5th and 6th years of His Majesty's reign, intituled an Act respecting the Court of Appeal, is brought into force. When Manitoba brings that legislation into force we are to be prepared for it. The chief point is that the contested elections are to be tried before the Court of Appeal, rather than before the Court of King's Bench in Manitoba.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—There is some discrepancy as between the title of the Bill!