

T. P. Wadsworth, in his report for 1883, speaking of Day Star's Band, says:

"That the chief complained that he could not get his treaty pigs and that he wanted more oxen, a tool chest and milk pans."

He also reports:

"That Mistowasis' Band and Ah-tah-ka-Koops band did not get their treaty pigs and he recommends that they do get them."

He further reports that:

"Bobtail's Band complained that there was still due them under the treaty a cow and bull."

He further reports that:

"Ermine Skins Band complained that there was due them under the treaty a mower and some carts."

Now recollect that all these articles were articles which we were bound to supply the Indians under treaty obligation, and that the officials of the Government criminally neglected to supply them, and they neglected to do so with the full knowledge and connivance of this Administration. I say it is no wonder that the Indians should become dissatisfied, discontented and turbulent; Commissioner McLeod, in 1879, says:

"I have experienced great difficulty, (with the distress and suffering from hunger) applications for relief being constantly made to me by the starving bands of Indians."

Again:

"A Stoney Indian and his family had been without food for many days."

Superintendent Walsh, in 1880, says of the Sioux:

"Hunger and suffering prevailed. In some places persons became so reduced as to be unable to help themselves. The want of food, followed by disease, caused an epidemic—which marked its results by the many graves now to be seen in Wood Mountain."

The breach of faith, the violated promises, the broken pledges of this Government to the Indians, the fraud, the misconduct, the robbing, and the cheating, are all marked by the graves of the Indians in the mountains of the West. And this is the condition of affairs which the First Minister of this country considers the proper condition of affairs with respect to the Indians. Inspector Dickens says in January, 1884.

"Gladstone said he never saw Indians in such a state before."

Commissioner Irvine, in his report in 1882, says:

"For a considerable time they made no demand for aid from the Government, but as the cold weather came on, being very poorly clad, and insufficiently supplied with food, they experienced much hardship from exposure and starvation."

Why, Sir, the First Minister is carrying out his policy of reducing the Indians to submission by absolute starvation. Again, Mr. Irvine reports:

"A report of the acute sufferings of these Indians was embodied in a report by Surgeon Jukes, forwarded to you in October last."

Again, in 1882:

"I would call your attention to the fact that, in a letter of the 20th May last, I impressed upon the Government the importance of the Indians being well received in the north, also the fulfilment of all treaty obligations."

On the 17th October, 1884, Inspector Dickens writes the officer commanding Mounted Police, Battleford:

"That Little Poplar insisted on the dismissal of the Indian agents, and good men appointed in their place. That Big Bear complained that the Government had broken faith with the Indians; that they were not paid enough, and were starved."

I say, Sir, if these reports are correct—and we have no reason to doubt their correctness—if these uncivilised wards of the nation—these Indians with whom you have broken faith, whom you were bound to feed, but whom you permit to be starved—if they became turbulent and rebellious, if they were easily led to take up arms against the Government and the people of this Dominion, we need

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not be surprised. These poor helpless wards of the nation, these roaming bands of barbarians, are entitled to every consideration at the hands of the people of this country. In their case the strong arm of the law has reduced them to subjection. In their case justice must be tempered with mercy. The real culprits are the men who committed the wrongs, who were guilty of the misconduct, the fraud, the cheating, and the swindling of the Indians; and the Government of this country who for years have connived at all these crimes. The people of this country, I say, must deal with these men in a spirit of justice, but that justice must be tempered with mercy. But what should we say of the Government who have tolerated such things? They deserve at the hands of the people of this country the very severest condemnation. Now, I have pointed out that not only were these Indians—if the reports are to be believed—robbed, cheated, and defrauded, but by reason of this cheating and defrauding, they became discontented, dissatisfied and turbulent, and were thus very easily led to take up arms against the sovereign power of this country. I propose to prove now, from the reports brought down to Parliament, that such was the case. I make the statement openly, boldly and without fear of successful contradiction—and I challenge hon. gentlemen opposite to contradict it—that for the last four years, by reason of the scandalous treatment of the Indians at the hands of the Government, they became uneasy, dissatisfied, discontented, and turbulent, and ready at any moment to break out into open rebellion against the Government of this country. In his own report for 1882 the First Minister says:

"In the Battleford district, some of the Indians have proved very obstructive."

A. McKay, one of the agents, speaking of the Berin's River Indians, says:

"They complain of a want of supplies. They further complain because they received no grain from the Department in 1882."

Mr. McColl, inspector of Indian agencies, in his report in 1882, speaking of the Indians at Swan Lake, says:

"The agent there was apprehensive of serious consequences, unless their claims to their former possessions were immediately recognised by the Government."

C. E. Denney, Indian agent at Fort McLeod, in his report for 1882, speaking of the Blackfeet Indians, says:

"The Blackfeet are in a most troublesome mood."

And again:

"I found the Blackfeet willing to work had they received assistance, but they have been badly neglected, and in consequence are very wild and unsettled."

Who treated them badly? The white settlers in the North-West? There is no such complaint; it was the officials appointed by this Government. The Government were notified of this fact by one of their own agents three years ago, and the documents submitted to Parliament do not show that the First Minister, the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, ever raised a finger to redress these wrongs. T. P. Wadsworth, in his report for 1882, speaking of the Eagle Hills Indians, says:

"They are restless now."

A. McDonald, the Indian agent, under Treaty No. 4, publishes in his report for 1882, a letter from Chief Pound-maker to Chief Commissioner Dewdney, in which Pound-maker says:

"There is to day a great distress in my band; their rations are suspended now for 41 days, and of course everybody is busy roving about and hunting."

And then the proud old chief pathetically says:

"It is impossible to work on our empty stomachs."