

SUPPLY—SALE OF ISLANDS IN GEORGIAN BAY—*Con.*

*Bennett, W. H. (East Simcoe)—Con.*

6486. They have given up their claim—6487. You try a sale—6507. The advertisement was read and Oliver said no tender will necessarily be accepted—6508.

*Blain, R. (Peel)—6505.*

Tenders were received up to noon of the 2nd day of August in that year for about 1,000 islands situate in the Georgian Bay—6505. This advertisement was published asking for tenders and a protest was entered by the Ontario government—6506. I thought Oliver would be anxious to clear the government of that condemnation if it is possible—6507. That is one of the chief objections that the highest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted—6508. You would not compare the value of the islands fifteen years ago with their value to-day—6509.

*Borden, R. L. (Carleton, Ont.)—6485.*

Is it considered that the government of Ontario had any right to intervene?—6485. Why is it now the policy of the government to sell these islands by private sale—6486. There cannot be any good reason which would enable us to dispose of these lands at private sale—6488. Restrict the allotment to each of the half-breeds of the United States as propose to return to this country—6504. This seems to me to belong to the same class of cases as the wire fence case we discussed—6505.

*Cochrane, Edward (Northumberland)—6487.*

If Oliver has power to sell by private sale, why has he not power to sell by public auction?—6487.

*Foster, Hon. Geo. E. (North Toronto)—6489.*

If that matter is disposed of I would like to bring to the attention of the government another—6489. If Laurier will watch, he will see that I do not go far beyond the strictly business aspect of it to-day—6490. Now it was an acquiescence by parliament whether any motion against it was moved I don't know—6491. There might be an agitation by those whose claims had been disallowed, thinking they had been unjustly treated—6492. Appoints an employee of his own department and obtains authority to start him on examination—6493. No land scrip of these half breeds could be located without the personal attendance of the scrip holder himself—6494. Nothing shown except the minister's scrupulous desire that vested rights should not be any longer violated as they had been—6495. Quotes a Dakota despatch from paper—6496. It shows however that there is some smoke and may be a good deal of fire down there over this matter—6497. You give them land scrip, but do you help them if you put into their hands the right to sell it for a mere song—6498. I do not believe on the average he has paid \$100 for each certificate—6499. It is time for this House and country to do a little serious thinking—6500. That is all land scrip—6501. Do

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all the minister's regulations have to be approved by Order in Council?—6502. But of money scrip they have—6503. I would ask Oliver in this connection as to whether the Nixon papers are approaching completion—6505. Nobody contends that—6509.

*Haggart, Hon. John G. (South Lanark)—6488.*

I hope he will include the correspondence between the Ontario government and this government—6488. Nothing has happened since that statement was made to prevent Oliver from carrying out that promise—6489. How did parliament declare it? In what respect was the decision of the commissioner unjust?—6501.

*Herron, J. (Alberta)—6504.*

I believe that they expect even yet that a commission will go up again and take up these unsettled claims—6504.

*Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid (Prime Minister)—6487.*

In reference to the question asked a moment ago—6487. It involved a conflict of jurisdiction between the Ontario government and Dominion government—6488. In a strictly non-partisan way—6490.

*Oliver, Hon. Frank (Minister of the Interior)—6478.*

Read memorandum giving particulars—6478-9. I merely made inquiries as to the points covered by the question—6480. There must have been a general consent given by the Indians to these sales as far back as some time previous to 1884—6481. I had no knowledge of Mr. Grant in the transactions—6482. If I find that to be the correct state of the case on inquiry, I will certainly not cancel the sale to Mr. Grant—6483. I do not think the record will bear out his statement—6484. Was making a statement of which he had the proof to the contrary actually in his hands and under his eyes at the time—6485. The survey was made in 1895 or 1897—6486. Apparently, there is some claim to a right in these islands on the part of the Ontario government—6487. That was not his point at all—6489. The first Order in Council defining the rights of the half-breeds to scrip was definite and comprehensive—6500. It was only such of these half-breeds as had become Indians of the United States that lost their rights—6501. It is the half-breed who, in one way or another, would have had to pay this cost of transportation—6502. It resulted in neither injury to the half-breeds nor loss to the country—6503. I do not think that there is any probability that a new issue of half-breed scrip will be made on any other terms—6504. They are ready, I have been negligent in bringing them down—6505. While on one hand that may be a good suggestion in the administration of these lands on the other hand it may not—6507. The attempt of the government in