

4, publishes an interview with one Charles A. Calkins, who says:

Several months ago I made an offer to the Dominion Government for the reserve. I am in receipt of both telegraphic and written communications from the Indian Department acknowledging my offer and stating that it will have consideration after the Royal Commission, which has been appointed to investigate the Indians' claims, shall have given its decision. My legal agents at Ottawa inform me that in addition to the formal acknowledgments which I have received from the department, the officials there take the view that no action will be taken to sell the reserve until the title is made clear by the Royal Commission, and, more than that, that the highest offer will get the reserve when the title is clear.

It is evident, then, that there were offers for this reserve aside from the offer of the British Columbia Government. This man Calkins had placed his offer with the Dominion Government, and we have reason to believe, from the statements in the papers, with which I shall not bother the House, that his offer was much higher than the payments made by Attorney General Bowser. I find it hard to believe that these transactions were going on without the knowledge of the Government in Ottawa, and, if they were taking place without the knowledge of the Dominion Government, I take the liberty of asserting that the Government at Ottawa was not paying proper attention to its responsibilities in that regard. As to whether the Indians received full value for their rights, the Vancouver World of April 9 has this to say:

For the provincial Government to pay the Indians \$300,000 for their lands when a sum of a million and a half had been offered by another real estate dealer who could not claim the prestige belonging to the Government in enforcing acceptance of his terms is unjustifiable and immoral.

The article then goes on to say:

Yet if an individual in the community had carried through the deal for which the Government claims credit, he would have been in danger of a term in the penitentiary. The Indians are the wards of both governments, Dominion and Provincial, and for the provincial government to claim credit for a bargain in which the main factors were the trustfulness of the Indian, his ignorance of the situation, and the prestige which, in his eyes, belong to the Government, is scandalous. The Government did not come within a million or two of paying market price for the lands of its wards, and now it claims credit for carrying through a real estate deal of great advantage to the province.

I want to be understood not as criticising the provincial government in this matter; the responsibility is with the Dominion Government, and it is to them we look for the protection of the Indians, who are especially and peculiarly the

wards of this Government and of this country. The matter is of especial importance when we look at it from the standpoint of keeping inviolate the good faith of Canada, or the good faith of Britain, if you will; it is important, I say, because of the number of reserves, especially in British Columbia, which are situated in very much the same position as this Kitsilano reserve. There is certainly one, and I am under the impression that there are two or three small reserves situated in North Vancouver, immediately on the north side of Burrard's Inlet, which have a real estate value favourably comparable with this Kitsilano reserve. There are other reserves scattered throughout the province of British Columbia and the Dominion of Canada, and, if the guiding principle of the British Empire and of the Dominion of Canada ever since those governments came to deal with the Indians in this country, is not to be hereafter maintained, and if the change in principle is to take place under the administration of the Government of to-day, it is right and proper that the country should know it, and should know who is responsible for breaking faith and ignoring the responsibilities of the country towards its wards.

It may be suggested, as would seem to be indicated by this transaction, that if the Indians received good value for their land, that was the only matter of concern; that is to say, if the Indians had received from the province of British Columbia the full value for their property, this Government would have had no further responsibility in the matter. But that is not the fact. The Government of Canada is charged not only with the protection of the property rights of the Indians, but with the supervision of their personal rights and the responsibility of overseeing, as far as possible, their personal welfare. When the rights of these Indians were bought out, and they were given the money for which they sold them, they had no guardianship or guidance in the control or management of that money, and the very reason why the Government of Canada assumed the control over these Indians that they do is because the Indian is not by temperament fitted to care properly for his own personal interests. So I say, even if the British Columbia Government had paid full value for this land, the Dominion Government was not doing its full duty in allowing the Indians to accept that money, whilst taking no steps to provide for its control in the future. The older members of the House will perhaps remember that there was a similar undesirable consideration regarding an Indian reserve the Songhees, situated within in the city of Victoria. It was very desirable that that reserve should be elimi-