

though a much larger sum of money is annually expended there than in Canada. The hon. gentleman says that the Indians have been cheated and robbed. It is quite possible that Indians may have been cheated and robbed, but every time complaints have been made or complaints have come to the notice of the Government there has been an investigation into the matter in order that justice might be done. If an officer has acted badly he has been discharged.

An hon. MEMBER. How about Governor Dewdney?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. It is all very well to make charges against a man, as the hon. gentleman has made charges against the First Minister, behind his back when he cannot answer for himself. The hon. gentleman had no doubt in his pocket or his friends have in their possession other motions to propose, and why did they not take some other motion and give time to the First Minister to be here? No, it is much more convenient to attack the First Minister when he is away; but I hope there is a spirit of justice in this House that will show hon. gentlemen opposite that they selected their time badly, and that a large majority of the members will not allow the First Minister of the Crown to be accused of all crimes, except that of murder—but even as regards that the hon. gentleman said that the First Minister allowed Indians to be starved to death, and so the whole calendar has been traversed and even murder is charged against the First Minister. The hon. gentleman has gone further and said that the Indians have no faith in Governor Dewdney. This has been said by several persons in the North-West and elsewhere. I do not think they were very friendly to the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West. The Lieutenant-Governor may have his faults—every man has his faults—but to say that the Indians have no faith in him is a sweeping charge that could not be sustained on an investigation. I have seen the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West with the Indians, and while the First Minister was away in England I had an opportunity of seeing the reports that came from the North-West, and I found that whenever the Lieutenant-Governor visited the Indians he was well received by them and they showed they had confidence in him. The hon. gentleman brings here charges made by Mr. Jackson, a member of the North-West Council, against Governor Dewdney. Well, I do not suppose we should go into all those charges made by Mr. Jackson, but Mr. Jackson had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Dewdney face to face in the North-West Council, and Mr. Dewdney answered the charges made by him, and I think the explanations given by Mr. Dewdney were satisfactory, and that they proved that Mr. Jackson had gone too far or had been misinformed. But the hon. member read only the charges. He took great care not to read the defence of Mr. Dewdney. It would have been only fair to Mr. Dewdney that the answer should have been read. The hon. gentleman then goes on and he speaks of the charges made by the Rev. Mr. McDougall. He says that those charges were very grave, and that there has been no investigation. Well, Sir, these charges were made by Mr. McDougall, and if I am well informed, when Mr. McDougall was asked to particularise those charges, he declined to do so. If I am rightly informed the Government have taken care to have an investigation made so that the charges made by Mr. McDougall may be sifted. The hon. gentleman quoted from the *Mail*, of Toronto, and he will not, therefore, find fault with me if I quote from the same authority. The *Mail* says:

"It will be remembered that a special correspondent of the *Mail*, who took a tour during the winter amongst the Indians living south of the Canadian Pacific Railway, made public certain grave charges preferred against officials of the Indian Department and others by Rev. John McDougall, of Morley, the well-known Methodist missionary, and Rev. Mr. Trivett, a Church of England missionary amongst the blackfeet. The Indian Department at once instituted an enquiry."

Now, the hon. gentleman said the Government never enquired about any of these charges, that the Department remained silent, that they allowed these charges to be made and did not investigate them or take any steps to protect their officers against those charges. That statement is disproved; it is not the fact. Every time a charge was made which was not a mere vague assertion but a charge in which facts were advanced, the Department took care to have an investigation made. The *Mail* goes on to say:

"The Indian Department at once instituted an enquiry. Assistant Commissioner Reed being despatched to take evidence from the reverend gentlemen who made the accusations and from all who could throw light upon the subject. The Fort Macleod *Gazette* says Mr. Reed has 'gone straight to those who put forward the charges' of corruption and immorality, but those persons, when asked to give particulars, were unable to do so, nor could the commissioner discover any proof in any other quarter. Some who were examined 'supposed' that the charges must be true, 'because everybody said they were,' but no one could establish a single case. Mr. McDougall does not appear to have been examined yet, but Mr. Trivett was pointedly asked to substantiate his charge relating to a traffic in Indian girls, and failed. Immoral intercourse is no doubt carried on, but no instance of the actual purchase of an Indian girl could be found. Rev. Mr. McLean, the Methodist missionary at the Blood reserve, 'takes no stock in the clap-trap about the abuses practised upon the Indians by Government officials,' his opinion being that the agents are honestly endeavoring to do their duty."

This testimony of this reverend gentleman surely is as good as these charges made by anonymous writers in the newspapers, and by others of less value. The Fort Macleod *Gazette* says:

"No man should make a charge of fraud in any department of the Government unless he is prepared to prove that there is fraud, and to point out the guilty parties. It is not fair or just to place all the officials in any district under a cloud of suspicion because a man 'supposes' there must be fraud."

But according to the hon. gentleman, all the officials of Indian affairs, all the officials of the Government in the North-West, from Mr. Dewdney down to the last porter or messenger, are a band of robbers, a band of miserable men who should be dismissed. That is the sweeping charge he makes against all those officials, some of whom are most able, respectable and trustworthy men. Such charges I think should never be made, especially by a member of Parliament under his responsibility as such, and under the protection which he enjoys here as a member of Parliament.

"The reputation of an Indian Department official is probably quite as dear to him as to any of us, and there is no excuse for any one who sullies that reputation by mysterious hints of fraud and embezzlement, which exist only in the imagination."

Now let us go to Battleford:

"The Battleford *Herald*, another good authority on Indian affairs, thinks the story about the traffic in girls arose from the fact that according to Indian ideas marriage is simply a bargain and sale, and that the parents of a young woman are always on the alert to find a buyer for her. The buyers, as a rule, are men of mixed blood, half-breeds and the like. Now and then some degraded white man buys a wife in this way, but the *Herald* says it is a rare occurrence. Rev. Mr. McDougall's evidence is awaited with some interest. It is not to be supposed that he made charges without having proof in his hands, and if he can point even to a single black sheep amongst the officials he will receive the thanks of the country, for it is absolutely necessary, upon moral grounds and for the sake of peace in the North-West, that the Indian Department should be beyond reproach."

I say ditto. I say that is a proper sentiment, and the Government wishes that every charge of that kind, when accompanied by facts or statements, should be investigated, and I have no doubt the First Minister, when he hears of the charges made by the hon. gentleman, will see that such charges, as can at all be made the basis of an investigation, are investigated. The hon. gentleman speaks of the immorality, not only of the Indian agents, but he charges all the officials from the Lieutenant-Governor down to the lowest messenger or porter in the North-West. Without naming them, he also charges the Mounted Police with the greatest immoral conduct possible. The hon. gentleman says here is a book in which there is a statement of the diseases for which these men have been under medical