

whether he was reading correctly, or not. He read also the corresponding statement from the pamphlet to which the Minister of Justice has referred, and I think that the House will see that the quotations read by the hon. gentleman went to support his proposition and did not in any way support the statements contained in that pamphlet. I think it is quite clear that the members of the Administration who made personal attacks on the hon. member for West Huron during the election campaign of 1887 did use language towards him which was altogether unwarranted by anything that he had said in his speech, or by anything which he had read from the report of the Minister having charge of the Department of Indian Affairs at that time.

Mr. DEWDNEY. I should like to say a few words in reference to this matter, as at the time these attacks were made by the hon. member for Huron (Mr. Cameron) I occupied the position of Indian Commissioner in the North-West Territories as well as being Lieutenant Governor, and I was responsible to a great extent for the policy of the Government in connection with the territories at that time. When these attacks were made I took the first opportunity of making enquiry into the matters referred to, and when the speeches of the hon. member for Huron (Mr. Cameron) were received by us from day to day the statements therein contained caused great astonishment not only to myself, but as well to the settlers of the North-West who were more familiar with the administration of the affairs of the Indian Department than the hon. member for Huron could possibly be. From one end of the country to the other the feeling existed that the hon. gentleman had been most unfair in his criticism of the Indian Department. Subsequent to the meeting of the House in that year I was asked to make enquiries into the allegations made, and to prepare a memorandum in reference to the charges, as they pertained principally to the North-West Territories and Manitoba. This was done by the officials of my department, who had all the documents in their possession. I also gave some attention to the matter myself, and I was surprised to-day when I heard the hon. member get up in his place and state that he had been misrepresented in the answer that had been made. If the hon. gentleman will look at the statements he made in the House and compare them with the reports of the Indian Department, he will himself see that while in many places he did not misquote, yet he did leave out parts of paragraphs or sentences which put a very different construction on the subject he was discussing. That is the case in many instances, I feel sure, from my recollection of the circumstances. When an answer was prepared to the hon. gentleman's remarks, there was no intention of misrepresenting him, and I should be very sorry if there had been any misrepresentation. The hon. gentleman referred to many matters which I cannot recollect now. They occurred in 1882, at a time when, as everybody must know who knows anything of Indian affairs and the state of the country of that time, all the officials of the Indian Department had a most trying duty to perform. The Indians who were scattered throughout the southern country were living sometimes on one side of the boundary and sometimes on the

other, most of the time to the south of the boundary. Wherever they could hear of a buffalo, they would pursue it, and when they left we could not know where they would turn up again, whether at Fort Walsh, Wood Mountain or Fort Macleod. In that country, extending over several hundreds of miles, it was impossible to know when to give Indians supplies when they came in and said they were hungry. The police outposts were fitted out with supplies for cases of sudden emergency, when the Indians came upon them, as they sometimes did most unexpectedly. In 1882, the time with regard to which the hon. gentleman complains of my not taking notice of letters which were written to me with reference to the state of the Indians there, we were pressing upon our Indians the necessity of going on their reserves. They had either to do that or go in search of the buffalo; for we were not in a position to provide supplies to keep four or five thousand Indians going. They were not dying of starvation, none of them. The police found their supplies running out, however, and they naturally sent to us for fresh supplies. Some of the Indians did go and settle on the reserves, and others went off to hunt the buffalo. The policy we adopted was to let the Indians know, through agents and every one who came in contact with them, that they must not expect supplies to meet them on the border, but that if they wanted them, they must settle on their reserves, and that policy had the effect of bringing that change about. These Indians, who were then as wild and savage as they had ever been in their lives, are now settled on their reserves, and a great many of them are making their living independently. I am very proud of the success we have met with in this respect in the administration of Indian affairs in the North-West Territories. The hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) compared the administration of Indian affairs at the time he had charge of the department with what we are doing now. He said that in his time the Government spent about \$300,000 a year, while we are now spending a million. That is the case; but, with the exception of one hand, there were not, at the time the hon. gentleman left office, any Indians on the reserves. They were just as free as ever they had been, and the Government were not feeding them. Everyone must, therefore, see the reason for the increased cost of Indian affairs to-day. We are now dealing with twenty or thirty reserves, whereas at that time there was only one on our hands. I do not know that I need say anything more in answer to the hon. member for West Huron. It is useless to go into a discussion of every one of these items. In reference, however, to the charge about implements being left in the mud, but especially in reference to the remark of the hon. member for Bothwell that if we had not a farm instructor on that reserve we showed our negligence, I may say that the agency covered by Treaty No. 5 consists of a large number of small reserves, at which the payments are made at stated times during the year. None of the Indians under Treaty 5 are what are called farming Indians, though, if any indicate a disposition to farm, we supply them with tools. In the case mentioned, I presume an application was made to us to supply the Indians with agricultural implements. They were supplied at the usual place where the payments were made, and everything else appears to have been taken away