

he made or lead to a belief that the Government's administration of Indian affairs had been unwise, unjust, or corrupt. Again the reader will be left to judge for himself whether Mr. Cameron did or did not make a fair and honest presentation of the case, allege none but facts, and put his testimony before the House and before the country in a strictly impartial manner.

It is reasonable to expect from the Government faithful and even zealous care for the interests of the Indians. The simplicity of these people, their ignorance of business details, their improvidence, and the fact that they have entered upon a change from the condition of nomads to that of civilized men, following industrial pursuits, call for watchful care over them, strict probity in dealing with them, and benevolent solicitude for their welfare and their education. So much the people may reasonably expect from the Government. They may not reasonably expect infallibility on the part of Ministers or of the agents and other officials put in immediate charge over the Indians—officials who carry on their operations at distances of thousands of miles from the seat of Government. The desire of the people of Canada is that the Indians shall be not only justly but generously treated. They certainly have received far more than they were entitled to under their treaties. Let it not be forgotten that with a single exception not one of the treaties stipulates that the Government shall supply the Indians with food. In the exceptional treaty the agreement is to supply food only in case of actual starvation. But the disappearance of the buffalo from the plains created a change in the Indian's condition which forced the Government to supply food to the prairie bands. The hunters could no longer feed themselves, and they had neither knowledge nor habits of steady application which would enable them to support themselves and their families by agriculture. The Government was forced to feed the Indians to save them from starvation. It is highly important that they be taught and