

the hon. gentleman that 17 per cent. have not gone out this year.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman must remember that a new mode of exit from Manitoba has been adopted of late years; that there is a way of going out by rail, and I am sorry to say, a way of going out by trail; and he must put these two together before he arrives at his percentage.

Mr. POPE. I am not sorry that there is a way of going there by trail as well as by rail. I wish there were a thousand trails by which settlers could go into that country.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. POPE. I am not out of order.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman is out of order in that he is speaking twice. I was replying to the motion and he misconstrued a material part of what I said. I asked him to remember that there were two ways of leaving the country, not of entering it.

Mr. BOWELL. I suppose settlers can go in by trail also.

Mr. POPE. I was replying to the hon. gentleman. I hope I did it effectually?

Motion agreed to.

CUTTING TIMBER ON INDIAN LANDS.

Mr. BLAKE, in moving for copies of all Orders in Council, correspondence and departmental orders, with reference to the granting, cancellation and suspension of licenses to cut timber on lands of the Indians, near Fort William, on the Fort William Reserve, said: The reason I make this motion is that a letter has been transmitted to me which was addressed by a number of the Indians of the reserve to a friend of mine, in which they make a statement on which I base the motion, and to which I would call the attention of the Government. They say:

"It is necessary we should expose before you the whole case as clearly and concisely as possible. Some twelve years ago, that is the year the Red River Expedition took place, a certain Mr. William Plummer came to our reserve, when all the men, except three or four, were absent, having accompanied the soldiers. He exposed the object of his visit to those he found here. He had come, he said, to ask the Indians their consent to a license to cut timber on their reserve. Two of the men put their names to the surrender. A third one, as he declared afterwards, under oath, gave his name, but did not make his mark or touch the pen, saying he would do so if, after their return, he found his fellow Indians favourable to the petition. None of the signers had any authority in the band. The surrender form, with these three names on it, was left in the hands of the Rev. J. P. Choné, S.J., Missionary at Fort William. Then Mr. Plummer returned to Ottawa, after having given the Indians flour and tobacco, and told them to make their brethren sign the surrender when they had returned. Some time after, the absent came home and were called to the house of the missionaries, where the Rev. Father Choné told them of Mr. Plummer's visit and holding in his hands the surrender form, translated it and explained it to them. When they had consulted together for a few minutes they unanimously answered negatively, saying they would put their names to no paper, as they had not received what they had been promised before. They were told to reconsider the matter, but answered a second time in the same manner. Towards the fall, Mr. Plummer returned to Fort William and gathered together the Indians at the Hudson Bay Company post, the meeting taking place in presence of Mr. G. McIntyre, the then agent of the company at Fort William. Mr. Plummer proposed to all what he had previously proposed to a few. The consent asked for was unanimously denied or refused. He insisted several times, but invariably received the same answer. William Crow, who was then our First Chief, having remarked that his name was on the surrender, said to Mr. Plummer: 'Who has given you my name? You have stolen it.' Plummer blushed and answered nothing. Though Crow can write his name, another person has written it down, and nobody has witnessed the writing. Plummer, seeing his failure, became very angry, and throwing with violence on the table the surrender form he held in his hands, said: 'So I cannot obtain anything. Well, notwithstanding your opposition, the Government shall take your timber.' All returned home; two years elapsed before anything was heard about Plummer's threats; then we were told that a license had been granted by the Government to a man named Monk to cut timber on our reserve. Immediately we protested against it, and sent our protest to the Government. Our Chief has in his possession the draft of the protest drawn by Father Choné. From 1874 to the fall of 1882, three or four persons trespassed on our reserve, but all were easily stopped, except Mr. Oliver, who used to own a saw mill at Fort William. He cut a great number of our pine trees. Time and again we spoke to Amos Wright, who was then our agent,

and to S. J. Dawson, the member for Algoma, begging of them to see that Oliver should pay damages for his trespasses. Finally, Mr. Dawson told us that Oliver had used the Monk license when he made timber on our reserve. We did not understand what he meant. In the fall of 1882, Mrs. Farjana, of Montreal, Mr. Henry Valières, of Three Rivers, and Mr. Thomas Marks, of Port Arthur, formed together a partnership called 'The Thunder Bay Lumbering Company.' The news was then spread that they were to begin to work on our reserve, using the Monk license which had come down to them, it appears, as follows: Monk before ever having made any use of his license, advertised in the papers that he would sell it. A man named Stewart bought it. He then took the late Farjana as his partner. When Farjana died, his widow became the owner of one-half the license and bought the other half from Stewart. Then she took Henri Valières as partner, and they both formed the said company with Thomas Marks. We then protested against their entering on the reserve, and signified our protest to Thomas Marks. They, nevertheless, began to work. We then deputed to Ottawa J. B. Binesi, who was then our Chief, with an interpreter. On their way, they took with them Mgr. Jamot, Bishop of Peterborough. When they had reached Ottawa, they had an interview with Sir John Macdonald, and presented him our petition, begging of him that he would cancel the Monk license, granted under false allegations, and stop the Thunder Bay Lumbering Company from cutting our timber and our trees. One point was immediately obtained, namely, that they should make no more cordwood, as the license had been granted only for merchantable timber; but Sir John said that, before cancelling the license or stopping the company, an enquiry about the facts of the case should have to be made. T. J. Dawson was proposed by Sir John to do the work, and accepted by the deputation. But Mr. Dawson refused to act and was replaced by Mr. Caddy, a Government officer, residing at Fort William. This latter one immediately proceeded to make the enquiry, examining under their oaths a good many Indians, Mr. McIntyre and some others. All testified according to what we have set above. Mr. Caddy made his report without delay, and placed it before Sir John. We, therefore, expected an early decision, but on the contrary those we complain of were allowed to work during the whole winter, cutting about 10,000 logs per week. However, the right Rev. Bishop Jamot, and we ourselves, often asked Sir John to give his decision, considering that our case was so clear, but, nevertheless, we could not obtain justice. We saw that Sir John was favouring Marks on account of the support his party received from him in the elections, Marks having a great deal of influence in these parts. So we told Sir John in one of our letters we hoped that this question, having nothing to do with politics, would not be influenced by them, but our remark had no effect. Last spring, when the company's work was over, the time for renewing the Monk license came, but Sir John did not renew it, saying he wished first to examine our case. Mr. Donnelly came here to tell us he had notified Marks and others, on the part of the Department, not to cut any more timber on the reserve. However, towards the middle of the summer, seeing that no decision was given, we began to suspect they wanted to play us a trick; namely, that Sir John being afraid to see another deputation from us in Ottawa, had ordered our agent to warn us as we stated above, but that when navigation was closed, and we could no longer travel, then he would again allow Marks to work on the reserve. Consequently, we decided to send another deputation to Ottawa, and wrote to our Bishop about it. He answered us not to start before he wrote us again. Meanwhile, he corresponded with Sir John and Mr. Vankoughnet. The matter was delayed from week to week, until navigation had closed, and now that we cannot travel easily, Vankoughnet has written to Mr. Donnelly to allow Marks and his partners to use again the Monk license and they are hard at work. It is in this way that we are treated by him who should protect us. Evidently politics have a great deal or rather everything to do with the case. Marks is now being rewarded for the help he gave the Ottawa Government in the last Algoma election. We were told, some years ago, that the Government of Mr. Mackenzie was defeated, partly on account of the Neebing Hotel or Town Plot Affair. We do not know how far the charges made against it may have been true, but supposing they were, then on the other side, on the Kaministiquia River, just opposite the Town Plot, on our reserve, is to be found a pendant to the Neebing Hotel case. Once more, hon. Sir, we ask your help in order that we may obtain justice. If it were absolutely necessary to send one of us to Ottawa, we would try to do so, though our poverty would make it hard for us, especially in winter.

We subscribe ourselves, honourable Sir,

Your most humble servants,

JOHN PIERRÉ, 1st Chief.

his
MICHEL + St. GERMAIN, 2nd Chief.
mark.

The House will excuse my attempting to read all the other names. I trust the hon. gentleman will see that these papers are brought down early and that he will do something to restore the confidence of those poor people in their protector and guardian. I understand that although they are not here, Marks is.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I will be very glad to bring down all the papers at once. I do not know whether this will assure confidence in the signers of this letter, but I