

Cypress. We expected it last summer, but in vain. Let me have the twenty-two oxen you promised my band." The answer which the Government made to that charge is as follows:—

"Mr. Cameron, with the idea of fairness which pervades his speech, suppresses that part of Poundmaker's letter in which he goes on to say: 'There are here sixteen or seventeen oxen.' The band having received four times as many cattle as their treaty calls for, it was for the Government, not for Poundmaker, to determine whether more should or should not be sent."

Now, Sir, what will you think of Ministers of the Crown charging me with having garbled the reports, if I can prove to you out of their own blue-books that in order to make up this answer to my charge they deliberately and wilfully forged part of the letter which Poundmaker wrote to the Commissioner; that they left out a portion of it, cut it off in the middle of a sentence, and omitted a material part of it altogether in order to make out a charge against me. From the report for 1882, at page 196, I will show you Poundmaker's letter and what he says with respect to that:

"Let me have the twenty-two oxen you promised my band. There are here sixteen or seventeen oxen."

The Minister, if he was the author of the pamphlet, stopped here and said that was an answer to the charge, but Poundmaker did not stop here, he went on to say the following, which it was found convenient to omit in order to answer my charge:—

"There are here sixteen or seventeen oxen, but we cannot use them as we like. Our farmer is the master of them all. If these cattle were delivered into our hands I hope we would show a good deal more work."

The other parts of the letter I may have occasion to read later, but I submit to you that I have shown that the Ministers were wrong, and I have shown that from their own reports and from the reports of the Department of Indian Affairs for 1882 at pages 194 and 196. I give the pages because I do not believe the Minister ever reads them. I want him to read them now. I then went on and made this charge:

"G. McPherson, Indian agent, says: 'The clothing for the chiefs and councillors was good, except the trousers and shirts, which were inferior and worn out in three or four days.'"

I made some comments on that charge; I declared it was a scandalous thing that the Parliament of Canada and the tax-payers of Canada should be asked to give enormous sums every year to feed and clothe the Indians, and to give the Indian chiefs some advantages, while at the same time the Government should buy these articles at the highest market price and that they were of such inferior quality that they were worn out in three or four days. The charge was a grave one and deserved the consideration of the Government. If it were untrue I ought to be stigmatized as a man who ought not to be heard to make charges against the Administration.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). Wait a moment, gentlemen. If the answer of the Government is untrue and false, will you say "hear, hear" to the Government that you are supporting day after day, if I can prove, out of their own blue-books, that the very words I made use of in my charges against the Government, in this House, are literally the words made use of by George McPherson, the agent of the Government in the North-West Territories, and embraced in this volume of their own reports?

Surely, in such a case, the responsibility does not rest on my shoulders, but upon the shoulders of the Ministers you are supporting. You will find at page 44 of the report of 1882, the report of George McPherson, in which George McPherson makes use of the following language. Before quoting that report, let me mention to the House the answer made to my charge which I last quoted. They say:

"Again, Mr. Cameron has been guilty of garbling. Mr. McPherson does not say anything of the sort: what he does say is that 'an Indian had informed him' to that effect."

If that were true my charge would not have the same weight, but, even so, I do not think it a charge which should not be answered. However it would not have the same weight as if the charges I made were literally, and in the very words I made use of, supported by the reports of the Indian Department. It so turns out that Mr. G. McPherson, the Indian agent, did say so in the very words which I used. Mr. McPherson did not say "that an Indian had informed him to that effect," but he made use of the very words I made use of. At page 41 of the report for 1882, the Minister of the Interior, who never read the reports, will find the following:—

"The clothing for the chief and councillors was good except the trousers and shirts, which were inferior and worn out in three or four days."

Now, if the hon. gentleman will find in this report which I have just read a single word about an Indian having informed Mr. McPherson of that fact, I will withdraw that charge and say that I have not read the reports right, and that I was mistaken. But if he can find no such words at page 41 of the report for 1882, from which I have just read them, the hon. gentleman owes to the country and to the House an apology for so stating. The statement which I have referred to is the very last statement in the report; there can be no mistake about it, and the author of this pamphlet must wilfully, and with his eyes open, have published what he must have known to be untrue. I said further:

"W. Herchmer, Indian agent, speaking of the Salteaux Band, under South Quill, says: 'Having failed in their neighbourhood, the band have been obliged to sell most of their horses to buy supplies, and are miserably poor.'"

I said that the agent had so reported, and the answer which the Government made to that charge is as follows:—

"Well, most of the Indians are miserably poor. If they were not, they would not need Government assistance. All the Government can do is to keep them from actual suffering. The Government must bring pressure to bear upon the Indians to induce them to help themselves. If they refuse to work and refuse to settle down on their reserves, they must take the consequences."

Now the charge that I made there is admitted to be true by the Government, and what I stated then, and what I state now is: that the enormous sums which we vote annually to feed and clothe the Indians should be sufficient to keep the Indians from this miserable condition, if that money were properly disposed of. Later on in the session when we reach the Estimates, I will be able to show as I have done on former occasions, how a large portion of the sum voted by Parliament to feed and clothe the Indians is expended. It was reported that, notwithstanding these enormous subventions, these Indians had not blankets to cover their nakedness, and that for want of clothing and food they