

starving, except for assistance given them by Col. McLeod and other residents."

The Government directly to blame.

The Indians of the North-West Territories have been subjected to the greatest possible suffering, the Government have permitted them to freeze to death and starve to death, and that in the midst of plenty, and with the bountiful donations of this Parliament for feeding and clothing the Indians. Dr. Edwards, an employee of this Government, reported to Commissioner Dewdney, and so scandalous and outrageous was the nature of that report, that Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney suppressed the original report, and it has not seen the light of day to this hour. This scandalous state of affairs was well known to this Administration. I hold in my hands part of a speech made by Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney to the North-West Council during its last Session, as reported in the Regina *Leader* of the 10th December, 1884, in which he says:

"Shortly after they had taken up their residences on the reserve, hearing that there was a great deal of sickness in their band, we instructed Doctor Edwards, who was then in our employ, to make an inspection of Pi-a-pot's people. In his report which I now have before me he states in these words, 'some of these Indians have died of starvation this winter. They were ill and could not eat the bacon and flour.'"

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, I ask this House of Commons, I ask the people of this country, if it is not a scandalous outrage that, right under the shadow of the vice-regal establishment at Regina, at Indian Head, on the borders of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Indians should have been allowed to starve to death during last winter, and that in the midst of plenty, with the enormous sums voted by this Parliament for the purpose of feeding and clothing the Indians. . . .

An investigation demanded.

I challenge this Administration now to issue a commission to investigate the

matter, to appoint a commission of sensible and honest men to investigate this whole question, and I believe that every statement I have made upon this subject is capable of the clearest possible proof. I say a Government which has so neglected the first duties of a Government towards its wards deserves condemnation, deserves the severest condemnation at the hands of the people of this country. That is not all. I say further, that the Indians, as I have shown, have been robbed, defrauded and swindled, frozen to death and starved to death, and yet we expect them to be peaceful, submissive, faithful and loyal subjects of the Queen. And that in the face of the statement of the Agent-General for Indian Affairs made in 1880 and re-affirmed in 1885 that the policy of this Administration was a policy of submission by a policy of starvation; and that in the face of the report of Agent Herchmer sent to the Department that a little starvation would do the Indians good; and that in the face of the declaration of Governor Dewdney that if they did not eat salt pork they might die and be damned to them. With this cruel and brutal treatment of the Indians, with this cruel and brutal report of agent Herchmer, and with the admission of Lieut.-Governor Dewdney, need anyone wonder that the Indians are dissatisfied and discontented. . . .

Waste of Indian Funds.

Now, according to the Indian report for 1886, the Indian population of the North-West Territories resident on the reserves, numbered 12,102, and they had under cultivation 4,614 acres, and to half cultivate this land the Government charge the Indian account in three years with \$87,444 worth of agricultural implements and tools. . . Is it not the fact—I charge that it is the fact, and I challenge them to a scrutiny. I challenge them to appoint a commission or a committee of this House to enquire into the matter—is it not a fact that in one of the bands numbering 1,150 families they are charged in one year with 1,160 hoes, and