

regard to some matter of business, politics or something else.

My hon. friend suggested that an official of the government had acted as the agent of the ranching company while representing himself as the agent of the government.

Mr. HERRON. I said that a gentleman who was formerly an employee of the government represented to the Indians that he was still an employee of the government when on the other hand he was working on behalf of this grazing company.

Mr. OLIVER. If my hon. friend is alluding to James Wilson who was Indian agent would he be good enough to say so?

Mr. HERRON. No, it was not Wilson.

Mr. OLIVER. Was it Wadsworth, inspector of agencies?

Mr. HERRON. Yes.

Mr. OLIVER. Hon. gentlemen opposite have harped on this grazing lease on the Blood reserve and have suggested it was a case of party graft. The agent of the Indians at the time, James Wilson, who afterwards became an employee of this ranching company was an appointee of the Conservative government and, so far as I am aware, never cast a Liberal vote in his life. Wadsworth, the inspector, who is said by hon. gentlemen opposite to have played double between the Indians and the company, was also an appointee of the hon. gentlemen. The company who occupy the territory today on that grazing lease are, one and all, so far as I am aware, not only strong supporters of the party of my hon. friend, but are prominent in the ranks; Messrs Gordon and Ironsides.

Mr. BENNETT. Peter Ryan and Beck are not.

Mr. OLIVER. So if there is anything wrong about it I want it to be understood it was a Conservative transaction from first to last.

Mr. BENNETT. Tell that to the marines, rot.

Mr. OLIVER. So far as this party is concerned, it is a straight business transaction in the interest of the Indians, with which the Indians, so far as our information goes, are perfectly satisfied and the agreement made with them is being carried out. They gave their consent to that agreement in due form.

Mr. LAKE. When did Gordon and Ironsides become holders of the lease?

Mr. OLIVER. I do not know.

Mr. LAKE. I call attention to the fact that on September 19, 1906, the McEwen Company wrote that Gordon and Ironsides should not pay the rent, that it should be accepted from no one but Miller.

Mr. OLIVER.

Mr. OLIVER. Gordon and Ironsides are the occupants of the lease. I do not know how they got into possession but they are.

Mr. BENNETT. Does the minister say seriously that Beck, Peter Ryan and Charlie Miller are Conservatives?

Mr. OLIVER. No. I notice that these gentlemen are entering suit to establish some claim.

Mr. BENNETT. That kind of a crowd when they get into a business arrangement always end in litigation.

Mr. LAKE. Gordon and Ironsides offered the rent, but the department would not accept it. The minister says they are the people who occupy it and makes the point that they are Conservatives.

Mr. OLIVER. Which they are.

Mr. LAKE. And he excuses everything on the ground that some party concerned in the transaction appeared to have been appointed by a previous government.

Mr. OLIVER. I excuse nothing.

Mr. LAKE. These are the grounds which the minister usually takes with regard to these transactions. If there is any question about a transaction, the minister gets very angry and keeps on insisting that there can be nothing wrong with the whole thing. When he begins to get angry I generally begin to look into the papers more closely and think that there is something wrong about it when he thinks it necessary to abuse hon. gentlemen on this side of the House. I have made no insinuations with regard to this matter. I did not know about the matter being brought up before. I simply got the papers and looked into them.

Mr. OLIVER. And found nothing.

Mr. LAKE. I found a good deal. The transaction seemed to be a very peculiar one. I found amongst other things that we had a number of applications, one following the other.

Mr. OLIVER. What is remarkable about that?

Mr. LAKE. There is nothing very remarkable about that, but there is something remarkable when we find that a large number of these applications are made all offering considerable sums of money for this privilege.

Mr. OLIVER. Did they offer more than the man who got it?

Mr. LAKE. Yes, I think in one case.

Mr. OLIVER. Let us have the case.

Mr. LAKE. The man who got it offered a minimum of 7,000 head at 50 cents per head making \$3,500. Another gentleman