

man will sit alone upon the Treasury benches. There is nothing that hon. gentlemen so much fear as justice, that justice they will receive at the hands of the people of this country, if not at the hands of this Parliament. Sir, believing, as I honestly do, that the Administration of Indian Affairs in the North-West Territories has been harsh and cruel; believing, as I honestly do, that many of the officials appointed by this Government to administer Indian affairs are not only unfit for their position, but are men of bad character, and of worse morals; believing, as I honestly do, that the Indians have been robbed for years in the interest of the officials of this Government and the middlemen; believing, as I do, that the Government have, year after year, persistently refrained from investigating the complaints made by the Indians, and submitted to them by their own agents in the North-West Territory, and have kept incompetent and immoral men in the public service for a long series of years; believing that the Indians have been persistently robbed, cheated and swindled, and in many cases frozen and starved to death; believing, as I do, that the recent uprising of the Indians was the direct result of the maladministration and the incompetency of this Administration; that, in fact, the whole policy and the whole conduct of this Government, in the administration of Indian affairs in the North-West Territories, has proved disastrous in the past and is fraught with danger in the future, I beg to move the following amendment:

That all the words after the word "that" be left out, and the following inserted instead thereof:—the administration of Indian Affairs in Manitoba and the North-West Territories under the present Government has been characterised by extravagance, mismanagement, incapacity and culpable neglect.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I must congratulate the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat on the generosity he has shown this evening in bringing this motion on in the absence of the First Minister. The hon. gentleman knows that the First Minister has been kept away from this House several weeks by a severe illness. But he knows also, and was rejoiced to hear, that the First Minister had recovered somewhat from his illness, that he could already leave his house, and that there was a hope and a certainty that he would take his seat in this House in a few days. It would not have damaged the statements of the hon. gentleman had he waited for a few days until he could have made his charges against the First Minister in his presence. He knew perfectly well that the First Minister, being the head of that Department, was really the Minister who knew most about the figures and could answer all the charges in respect to the financial statements he made, and which, of course, the hon. gentleman thinks this House will take for granted. Well, Sir, I do not suppose that the large majority of this House will agree with the hon. gentleman in his statements, or that they will support him in these charges, when they know fully how the Department, presided over by the First Minister, has administered the affairs of this country. The hon. gentleman complains that the Government have expended too large sums of money in support of the Indians, in providing them with implements and provisions, and in supplying their wants. But I wonder what has happened to the hon. gentleman since last year. Last year he was in a different mood. Then, we did too much for the Indians, we fed them too much, they were spoiled children of the Government, and the Government were censured by him for taking such good care of them. These lazy Indians, as he called them, should be put to work, and the Government should cease to feed them out of the revenues of this country. The hon. gentleman, to day, has changed his mind altogether. He thinks that because he can pick up in the newspapers and in the reports of certain officials some complaints and individual charges he may make a charge against the

Mr. CAMERON (Huron).

Government and its policy. He may accuse the Government of all the charges he has brought this evening. He may make against the First Minister all those charges; but the country will never believe and the House will never admit or believe that the First Minister of this Government and his colleagues have shown cruel treatment to the Indians. They will never believe that this Government, which has had the support of the country for the last eight years and has the support of the people to-day—

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Hon. gentlemen may say "no"; but at the bye-elections during the last three years what has been the fate of hon. gentlemen and their party? Have hon. gentlemen opposite recruited their ranks at the bye-elections? On the contrary, have they not lost seats at those elections; and if they had the support of the country, as they claim, why would the people elect members to sit on this side of the House? No, the people of the country are in favor of this Government, and when the general elections take place they will demonstrate that fact, as they have done again and again. It is all very well for hon. gentlemen opposite to say that they are anxious to have a general election. That is said to keep up the courage of the rank and file of the party. They know perfectly well the answer the people have given at the bye-elections and that the same answer will be given when we again go to the people. We are not afraid to go to the people. We have shown that we are not afraid, and when we appeal to the country our conduct will be endorsed by an overwhelming majority in support of the Government.

An hon. MEMBER. Drummond and Arthabaska.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Hon. gentlemen dare not defend that election. Let it be scrutinised, and it will be made clear how they obtained a majority of the votes in that district. But at the general elections hon. gentlemen opposite will see whether Drummond and Arthabaska will give them a member to sit on their side of the House. The mover of the resolution has said that we have allowed Indians to be frozen to death or starved to death. If certain Indians have been frozen to death or starved to death, those were accidents such as have occurred in all parts of the world when food has been wanting. They were not the fault of the Government or the officials of the Government.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Hon. gentlemen opposite may laugh; but the time will come when they will not laugh so much as they laugh to-day. The provisions that were sent to those Indians were handed to them; but hon. gentlemen opposite know that you may give provisions to Indians to-day sufficient for two days, and within twenty-four hours they will all be gone. We do not propose to expend large sums of money to give them food from the first day of the year to the last. We must give them enough to keep them alive; but the Indians must, under the regulations that have been sanctioned by Parliament, go to their reserves and cultivate their land. They must provide partially for their wants. And therefore, if, by accident, an Indian should starve, it is not the fault of the Government nor the wish of the Government. The Government do not desire there should be starvation. On the contrary, every time when starvation has been feared we have taken means to give them fresh supplies; and the other day when the half-breeds were on the point of starvation, or in great want, the Government immediately issued an order to come to their relief. And if we do this for the half-breeds, and it is the proper thing to do, we will never refuse it to the Indians. The Indians of this country have been treated with the greatest possible care; they have been treated a great deal better than the Indians of the United States,