

fore before the company could have a perfect title, they would have to acquire a waiver of the reversionary rights of the province or enter into some compact or agreement with them. Following that out, we find an order in council passed at Ottawa authorizing communication with the government of British Columbia in connection with the waiver of these reversionary rights. That communication, my hon. friend, the leader of the opposition, said was unwarranted and impertinent. Well, it does not strike me in that light. I can quite understand that my hon. friend should take that view, but no one who calmly and impartially considers the question could possibly agree with him. To my mind the communication was in no way a piece of advice to the provincial government. It was in no way an attempt to coerce that government. It was simply a proposition warranted by the condition of affairs. Having been approached, as guardians of the Indians, by those who desired to purchase the land, and knowing that the province had a reversionary interest in these lands, this government merely placed before the local administration the request of the Grand Trunk Pacific Company and asked whether that administration would waive its reversionary right in order that the company might acquire these lands for the purposes of a terminal. It was open to the government of British Columbia to reject or accept that suggestion. There was no advice tendered, but simply a question asked. The government of British Columbia, in its wisdom, whether rightly or wrongly, refused to comply with the request. Do we then hear anything more on the part of the Dominion government? Do we hear of any cavil on their part or any request for any explanation why the local administration did not choose to act on its suggestion. Do we hear of this government asking the provincial government to reconsider the matter or saying to it that it should do this in the general interests of the country? No, so far as anything in the record shows the matter then dropped. The Minister of the Interior, or the government, as the case may be, proceeds with the negotiations with the Grand Trunk Pacific. The Indian agent is asked to obtain the consent of the Indians in the ordinary way, and that consent is obtained. A price is agreed upon. A price for what?—for an absolute, indefeasible title to that land? Not at all. The price is for such title as the government of Canada, acting as the guardian of the Indians can give, and subject to any claim the province of British Columbia may have. And the price fixed is \$7.50 an acre. Now, what is there in that transaction, up to that moment, that calls for any reproach from any member of this House, on whichever side he may sit, or whether he be a British Columbian or not. I am a British Columbian myself, and proud of it—

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. A native son?

Mr. GALLIHER. No, a native son of Ontario—from the good old county of Bruce, too. But, even were I not a supporter of this government, or were not I even in this House, I do not think I could cavil at the action of the government in connection with this matter, speaking as a British Columbian. We have the guardians of our rights in that province, the provincial government, and I do not think that any simple request from this government at Ottawa will cause them to lose sight of what is in the interest of their province. So, I say, I think we may dismiss from our minds the idea that there was anything except a straightforward businesslike proposition and open dealing by the Dominion government on behalf of the Indians with the Grand Trunk Pacific. Further, I understand that whatever title the Dominion government shall grant to the Grand Trunk Pacific in these lands, the Grand Trunk Pacific will have waived all claim against them by reason of any reversionary claim that may hereafter be set up by the province of British Columbia. No doubt the province and the Grand Trunk Pacific will come to some arrangement as regards any reversionary rights the province may have, if those rights should ever accrue within a limited number of years. And, with regard to the land itself, that was sold, and this 13,800 acres, I would just read briefly an extract from the report of the Indian agent, Mr. Morrow. In speaking of the Metlakatla band, and under the head of 'Reserves' he says:

The southern part of the Tsimpsean reserve—Digby, Tugwell and a part of Kaien island—covers the principal part of the reserves of these people, with a total area of something over 25,000 acres. A great portion of the land might be called worthless, but on Digby island and the land bordering the north side of Venn passage, some excellent soil is found. On this portion of the reserve the historic village of Metlakatla is situated, pleasantly located on the shore line of Metlakatla harbour.

Now, this good soil and this historic Indian village has not been transferred—it is not a part of the 13,800 acres, which is mainly a poorer class of land. Besides the village there were some small scattered settlements. But they are in course of disposition. The extent of the improvements may be judged from the fact that \$1,500 is estimated as a fair amount to pay for them. So, the band continue to reside on the reserve, they continue to reside in their principal village on that reserve. Now, I said I would not enter into any details in regard to the sale of the Kaien island by the provincial government, and I shall not deal with the subject further than to say that it is a matter of general knowledge that in British Columbia, no matter who purchases land from the government, in the Crown grant is a clause that, in case the land should be subdivided into town lots, the