

But when the hon. gentleman, relying on that extract, went on to particular instances to show that the cattle which had been furnished to some of the bands had been worn-out and unfit for use, and hardly fit for food, it was then proven that these were confined to cases in which the band were not entitled to any such supplies to be furnished to them at all. I shall not pretend to follow the hon. gentleman's quotations, which, as I have said, require verification and which he has given us no opportunity in the least to examine. I have, however, to say that any person who will read the pamphlet which the hon. gentleman has denounced and will compare it with the extracts which he has read this afternoon, will come to the conclusion that strong as is the language which was used concerning him in the winter of 1886-87, that language was far within the mark, unless it can possibly be said that instead of being willing to deceive, and anxious to deceive this House, the hon. gentleman himself was grossly deceived and misled: because the statements which he made in 1886, and which he has attempted to sustain this afternoon, cannot possibly be sustained by any kind of evidence from the public documents, or by any kind of evidence which will satisfy any honourable man. The hon. gentleman, in making these charges in 1886 and in repeating them this afternoon, has been, I am bound to believe, as badly imposed upon as any man ever was in regard to any section of our public affairs.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I must say that I am not a little surprised at the speech addressed to the House by the hon. Minister of Justice in answer to my hon. friend from Huron (Mr. Cameron). My hon. friend read a series of extracts from speeches delivered by the members of the Government in the general election campaign of 1887, and he pointed out that the members of the Administration had used very violent, and, in his opinion, altogether unwarranted language against him. I am also of the opinion of the hon. member for Huron (Mr. Cameron) in regard to this, and I do not think that anything which has been read by the Minister of Justice from the pamphlet which he has in his possession justifies the members of the Administration in the language which they used on that occasion. At the time that pamphlet appeared I took the trouble of comparing some portions of it—I did not go over the whole pamphlet—with the documents that the author professed to quote and with the vindications it undertook to make, and I must say I do not think that pamphlet was an honest production. I do not think that it gave a fair presentation of the contents of the various reports which it undertakes to set out, and I believe that it is open to the charge which the hon. the Minister of Justice has himself made against the speech of the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron). The Minister of Justice has referred to several statements made by the hon. member for West Huron, and amongst others to that statement with reference to the want of care of the agricultural implements which have been furnished to the Indians. The hon. member for Huron made no statements in his speech delivered some years ago, nor did he make any statement to-day that would in any way tend to misapply the language contained in the quotation which he makes. The point made by the hon. member for Huron was not

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that those implements had been used by the agents, that they had been thrown down in the mud, and that they had not been taken care of, but that here were farm instructors whom the Government appointed and to whom at that time they were paying a large sum of money.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. There were none there.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). The hon. gentleman says there were none there, and if that is the case I must say the Government were negligent of their duty and there was want of care and efficiency in the administration of public affairs.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. That was not the charge.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). The hon. gentleman says that was not the charge, but I say that is the charge. The charge is that these implements had been furnished by the Government, that they were thrown down in the mud, that the weels had grown up over them and that they had not even been put together. These Indians are the wards of the Government, and if they did not take proper care of their implements it was the business of the officers of the Government to see that proper care was taken of them. That is the point in the charge of the hon. member for Huron (Mr. Cameron), and to undertake to make it mean something else, and to read something else into it, is to pervert the argument which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Cameron) has employed. We have been voting very large sums of money for the maintenance of the Indians in the North-West Territories. In my day I think the sum voted was under \$300,000, but to-day the vote is four times that amount; and what justification is there for inefficiency or neglect? It is said it will not do to let the Indians starve, you must undertake to provide for them, and farm instructors have been appointed amongst them. The object with which the farm instructors were appointed was to teach the Indians to be self-supporting, and the object of furnishing them with agricultural implements was to teach them how to use these implements and to take proper care of them, and the Government as trustees for the public, and the officers of the Government as trustees for the Administration in that territory, were bound to see that these implements were properly taken care of and that they were not allowed to lie on the ground and to rot. That was the charge made by my hon. friend from Huron (Mr. Cameron). He very truly stated that some of these agricultural implements had not even been put together, but he was not charging the Government with having carelessly used them in the work; but was charging them with not exercising proper supervision over the Indians with reference to the implements with which they were furnished and the instructions which were to be given to them. The farm instructors were appointed and the agricultural implements were supplied for the purpose of making the Indians self-supporting, and giving them instruction in agriculture; the vocation by which they were to live. Yet, Sir, that was not done, and the quotation given by the hon. member for Huron shows that it was not done. My hon. friend (Mr. Cameron) has read to-day in the presence of the Administration, extracts from the report of 1882. He gave the number of the page from which he was reading at the time, and it was possible for the Minister to follow him and to see