

been watching an opportunity. One cause for dissatisfaction among the Indians had been the fact that the treaties had not been carried out on the part of the Government agents."

Such is the testimony of two men whose evidence cannot be controverted in this Parliament or elsewhere. I go further. I say that the reports of the Department establish still more clearly that broken promises and violated treaties have characterised the dealings of the Government with the Indians for a long number of years. A. McKay, an Indian agent at Grand Rapids, in his report states that the inspector of Indian agencies promised to supply them with all they might require, and that they were urged by that gentleman to make their demands on the Department for the same, which they did, but they were not complied with. Mr. McColl, inspector of Indian agencies in the North-West, writing of the Swan Lake bands, says that waggons were promised them, and that he is apprehensive of serious consequences unless their claims are recognised. Mr. McDonald, an Indian agent under Treaty No. 4, publishes a letter from Poundmaker, in which Poundmaker uses the following language:—

"It is Poundmaker who takes the liberty of sending you a few lines. We entreat Your Honor to send him the grist mill with horse-power you kindly presented him at Cypress. We expected it last summer, but in vain."

These had been promised to the Indian chief by Commissioner Dewdney, twelve months before this complaint was made; but up to that hour the pledges of the Crown, made by Commissioner Dewdney, had not been fulfilled. Poundmaker says further:

"Let me have the 22 oxen you promised for my band."

J. McRae, an Indian agent at Carleton, speaking of the Okenasis band—and Mr. Tompkins corroborates the statement—says that Inspector Wadsworth promised him a large lumber waggon last fall, but he did not get it. G. McPherson, Indian agent, says:

"The clothing for the chiefs and councillors was good, except the trousers and shirts, which were inferior and worn out in three or four days."

Now, I ask you, Mr. Speaker, is not that an extraordinary condition of affairs? If you refer to the accounts of the contractors for supplies to the Indians, you will find that they were bound to supply articles of a reasonably fair quality. Instead of so doing they supplied the Indian chiefs and the Indian councillors with an article that lasted them but three days; and yet we are surprised that the Indians are dissatisfied and discontented, and that they have broken out into revolt, as they may break out into revolt again. J. W. Herchmer, Indian agent, speaking of the Salteaux band under South Quill, says:

"Hunting having failed in their neighborhood, the band have been obliged to sell most of their horses to buy supplies, and are now miserably poor."

Miserably poor! With the munificent donation voted by Parliament, and expended last year, of some \$1,109,000. Miserably poor! And why? Because this Government negligently and carelessly permit their contractors to supply these Indians with an article of wearing apparel that lasts the Indians only three days. A. McKay, Indian agent, says of the Indians on Che-ma-wha-win reserve:

"The harrows and ploughs were lying partly buried in mud and weeds in different places. Some of them have never been used or put together yet, and are spoiling for want of care."

We have an army of officials in the North-West; we have Indian agents, sub-Indian agents, farm instructors, all kinds and classes of men there to look after the interests of the Indians; and yet we find that so little attention was paid to those supplies that they were dumped off in the mud and filth and left there to rot. And we are surprised and astounded that the Indian is not satisfied with the attention he receives. Mr. McColl, the Inspector of Agencies, says:

Mr. CAMERON (Huron).

"I also notice in the same records that nearly all the bands within this agency have received more axes than they were entitled to under the treaty, and that only two or three bands have received their complement of hoes, spades and scythes, notwithstanding the representation made to the contrary to the Department as well as to the Indians in reference to this matter."

Notwithstanding the representations made to the contrary, to the Department as well as to the Indians, in reference to this matter. In other words, our agents in the North-West, in charge of the Indian Department, were so indolent, so lazy, so indifferent and so careless, that they delivered to some bands of Indians far more of one class of tools and implements than were required, while to other bands they gave none at all. The same inspector further reports:

"The potatoes and barley received last spring were half rotten."

Now, I ask the Acting Minister of Indian Affairs if his attention was ever drawn to that report? Is that the kind of treatment we ought to mete out to the wards of the nation, to the men with whom, above all others, we are in honor bound to deal fairly and honestly? We pay for these things, and we supply them, but when they reach the Indians they are wholly unfit for use. The same inspector again says:

"That the councillor complains that the quality of the hats, trousers and shoes received by him were inferior."

He further reports that John Harcus, one of the councillors of the Cumberland band, complains that the agricultural implements forwarded by the Department for their use, were refused to them. We were under obligations, we were in honor bound to give the Indians these things; they were bought and paid for, yet when they reached their destination, some wise agent of the Administration would not hand them over to the Indians. Was any enquiry made into this? In so far as I am able to gather from the reports, none was made. C. E. Denny, another Indian agent, speaking of the breach of contract by the contractor, says:

"I sent a messenger to Fort Benton, to I. G. Baker & Co., informing them that flour was needed, and to ship at once. I had, on two occasions, to purchase cattle from others than the contractors, as they failed to keep me supplied, and beef would have run out on the Black-foot and other reserves had I not done so. I had to pay half prices, and notified the contractors before taking this step."

There you see how a portion of the fund which Parliament voted was expended. The contractors either did not supply the articles at all, or supplied it of an inferior quality; yet, no investigation was made, no enquiry made, and nothing was done. Mr. Herchmer, speaking of the Sioux bands, says:

"A great deal of sickness has visited them lately caused by the want of fresh meat."

W. Pocklington, speaking of Stoney Indians, says:

"During last winter there was a great deal of distress among them for want of clothing, many of them not having a blanket to cover their nakedness."

T. P. Wadsworth, speaking of the Day Star band, says that:

"They complained that they did not get their treaty pigs, and they asked for more oxen, tool chests, moccasins and milk pans."

He reports as to Mistowasis band:

"They complained that they did not get treaty pigs, and Wadsworth recommends that Mistowasis and Abtahkakoops get them."

Mr. Wadsworth says of the Bobtail band:

"They complain that still due them, under treaty, a cow and bull."

And further:

"The Ermine Skin's band complain of want of a mower and some carts."

These are not the only complaints that the Indians have been making for a number of years. We promised, and were under obligations to supply the Indians, just fresh from the plains, from which the buffalo had disappeared, with fresh beef. But instead of fresh beef, we supplied them