

a grievance stated to the House, and application to Parliament for a remedy. In this case, it would be exceedingly inexpedient, when the grievance has been remedied to the satisfaction of the parties, to keep it alive by sending down the papers to Parliament.

MR. CASEY: As the First Minister considers it would be inexpedient to keep alive the difficulty, I withdraw the motion.

Motion, with leave of the House, *withdrawn*.

BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN LANDS ALLOTMENT.

MOTION FOR RETURN.

MR. BARNARD moved for an Address for all correspondence between the Indian Land Reserve Commissioner, or the Government of British Columbia, and the Government, respecting the allotment of lands to Indians, or relating to any disagreement with settlers in respect of Indian Reserve Lands in the District of Yale, with copies of any map or sketch, showing the lands set aside for Indian Reserve purposes in the same district; also, of any Report showing the quantity of land set aside for each Indian, Indian family, camp or Tribe of Indians in the locality above named, with a statement of any lands given or arranged to be given, by Mr. Commissioner Sproat, in exchange for lands held by settlers, and said by the Commissioner to be required for Indian Reserve purposes, with the names of parties with whom such exchanges are made or proposed to be made, and the quantities of land involved in each such exchange; also, a return of the Census taken by the Indian Reserve Commissioner of the Indians living in the various camps in Yale District, as far as ascertained, giving the number belonging to each family, or camp, of each Tribe, and their location, also the number of horses and horned cattle owned by each Indian or camp of Indians; also, copy of any agreement entered into by the Government with the Government of British Columbia, showing the quantity of land to be given to each family, distinguishing agricultural from pastoral land. He said: My reason for asking for this information is that a great deal of ill-feeling exists in my district in reference to the Indian Reserve Lands, owing, in a

great measure, to the secrecy observed in dealing with this question. Previous to 1877, the period at which the Indian Reserve Commissioner was appointed, we had little or no trouble with the Indians, the settlers agreeing with them and working with them in harmony, frequently assisting them with advice, by loan of implements, and in other ways encouraging them in the art of cultivating land. Unfortunately, the Commissioners appointed to discharge this important duty were not fully up to the mark, and did not understand the genius of the people they were dealing with, consequently, important mistakes have occurred, calculated to lead to trouble between the whites and Indians. We take it that, in the settlement of the Indian Reserve, it was intended the Indians should be brought to follow agriculture for a living. With this view it was understood certain sections of land should be allotted to them, not only for agricultural but for pastoral purposes. The Commissioner, however, seemed to think that all he had to do was to give the Indians whatever land he fancied, whether it was the property of the Government, or of actual *bona fide* settlers; and not only was he to receive this land, but certain fishing rights, or streams, should be secured to him, even if these rights could only be obtained by interference with the whites. An instance is on record where a fishing station was located in the centre of a farm, the consequence of which was that the settler could not obtain water for his stock without committing a trespass. In another locality Indians being anxious to secure a piece of land—the property of an actual settler—for root digging purposes, an arrangement was made by the Commissioner whereby the settler was to have 500 acres of public land in exchange for six acres ceded to the Indians, a transaction of a very suspicious nature in the first place, and in the second, one calculated to encourage the Indian in following his old habit of root digging, at the time of year in which he should be seed sowing; the one obtaining food for present purposes only and the other providing for future contingencies. Another instance is given of a settler who had taken up a piece of land, in order to secure fence timber, was deprived of it, so that Indians should have the right