

for sale. Why should we touch the Indian reserve? It is a foolish move; an improper thing to do. If there was a scarcity of land; if it was found that the Indians have too large a reserve, a portion might be sold with discretion, but we know that there is some one else at the bottom of this whole thing. Some one has taken a fancy to the land and has worked upon the minister or the deputy, and that is the whole scheme.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—Oh, no.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—There is nothing in it for the Indian. It is for the benefit of some person who wishes to get hold of the Indian reserve. Furthermore, there is no power given in this Bill to sell that land. Under this measure the government cannot give a title to it. The clause says:—

70. The Governor in Council may, subject to the provisions of this Act, direct how, and in what manner, and by whom, the moneys arising from the disposal of Indian lands, or of property held or to be held in trust for Indians.

It does not give power to sell the lands. It says the proceeds from the sale shall be disposed of.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—They have power now, if the Indian will relinquish the claim, but the land is disposed of by public tender, and they will still be disposed of in that way. But it is to induce the Indian to agree to part with his reserve by giving him a larger amount of the money.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—They will do anything for money, and the money will be gone in one month. If you give an Indian three or four hundred dollars to-day, to-morrow he won't have a farthing. He spends it on guns, clothing and many articles which are of very little use to him. I do not like this Bill at all. I am sure that it is not at all for the benefit of the Indians, but in the interests of some white man who has taken a fancy to part of the reserve.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—The minister in the other House said it was not proposed to interfere with the reserve. It was the isolated lands that belonged to the Indians, as a rule that are not occupied at all, and have no connection with the lands occupied by the band. Assuming the Indians would

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)

be entitled to 160 acres each, in Manitoba alone there are 106,073 acres over and above the assumed area that each Indian would be entitled to receive.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—Does the hon. gentleman say it is not part of the reserve?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No, it is not.

Hon. Mr. WATSON—It is land not occupied but is a part of the reserve. That is particularly the case in the older provinces where the lands are not occupied.

Hon. Mr. MACDONALD (B.C.)—We know that the Indians occupy very small parts of the reserve. There are beautiful reserves in British Columbia, and out of 600 they cultivate about ten acres. They have a potato patch and a few cattle and horses. They do not occupy the whole of the reserves, but it would not be fair to sell them because they are not occupied.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—The only portion of the Act that may be detrimental to the Indians is the handing over to the tribe of the fifty per cent of the receipts of the sale of land and the ten per cent for the timber. If that money were invested by the government in other lands where the Indians or the increase in their population could go, then the difficulty could be met. In the past the receipts of the moneys derived from sales of these lands have always been funded for the benefit of the Indians; now they propose to take fifty per cent of the money derived from the sale of the land and give it to them as an inducement to surrender the reserve. I was going to call the attention of the senator from Halifax to an illustration of the administration of trust lands by the late government. A great number of acres of the Mohawk reserve in the township of Tyendinaga, were included in the town of Deseronto, which was a very thriving town increasing in population. This reserve land was occupied by huts and all sorts of shelters of that kind. After a great deal of persuasion, the Indian tribe met in council and consented to the sale of a portion of the reserve which was within the corporation limits, but they made this condition, that the receipts from the sale of all these town lots should be invested in land