

and especially protect them from the public, and to take their side in such questions as this. I should not be required to stand in this House, and contend for the Indians; that is the duty of the hon. gentleman who is the guardian of the Indians. This matter has been brought before him in as forcible a manner as I am capable of doing. I am sure he has had plenty of opportunity to take the right course. I could tell the hon. gentleman of letters he has received from his old political friends, strong men, men occupying prominent positions in the city of Winnipeg who have verified a good deal of what I have told him to-day. So this is not a political matter with me. There is no politics in this; it is a matter of justice to the poor unfortunate Indians, men whom we ought to protect.

An hon. MEMBER. They have no votes.

Mr. BRADBURY. No, they have no votes. I contend that this treatment of the St. Peter's Indians is a blot upon the escutcheon of Canada. Up to the time this government came into power, it was the proud boast of Canadians every where that we had treated our Indians well, and that our Indians were satisfied. But now the cry goes up from this band for British justice. These men tell me in private conversation, 'This is not what we expected from Great Britain.' Many of these men do not realize the difference between Great

Britain and this government. But there is a difference, thank Heaven! They appeal tonight for British fairplay, and that is all I am asking. I ask that this royal commission shall be granted. I have tried to be fair, I have tried to discharge my duty as the representative of the part of the country in which this transaction has taken place; and I now urge the government to grant this royal commission.

I move, in amendment:

It is the duty of the government forthwith to appoint a Royal Commission for the purpose of making a prompt, thorough and complete investigation in the negotiations which resulted in the surrender of the St. Peter's Indian Reserve, and into the said surrender and all circumstances connected therewith, and into the price or other consideration received by the Indians for lands allotted to them under the terms of the said surrender, and into the price or consideration received by the government for lands included in such surrender and afterwards disposed of by public auction, and into the locating of the said Indians on other lands and generally speaking into all matters and transactions in any way connected therewith or relating to the said surrender and everything leading up thereto and resulting therefrom.

And that counsel selected by the said Indians should be permitted to appear for and represent them before the said Royal Commission throughout the said investigation, and that the fees, charges, and any expenses of the said counsel should be paid by the government.