

a claim upon this leasing privilege. Two or three different sets of people were at that time sending money up to the department and insisting that the money should be received from them on behalf of the D. McEwen Company. That is evident from the extract my hon. friend has just read from the Toronto 'News.' Altogether, it seems to me a very curious deal from beginning to end.

Mr. HERRON. There was a great deal of dissatisfaction when this lease went through among owners and men who were looking for grazing privileges. I know of many strange transactions in regard to it, but I will not take up the time of the House to mention them to-night. But there is another side of the question which is even more serious than the discrimination among the white applicants for grazing privileges, and that is the Indian side of the question. I have not been requested to bring this matter to the attention of the House, but I have heard complaints in the community that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction among the Indians about the way the conditions of the present lease are being carried out. There were certain representations made to the Indians at the time this lease was granted, that they should perform certain duties on the reserve, some of which were to build reservoirs, to dig wells, and make several other improvements that had to be made on the reserve. But they have not been carried out, and it was generally understood that a misrepresentation was made to the Indians by a former government official who stood in very well with them, and was looked upon as a reliable man by the Indians. He went there on behalf of the lease holders and represented to the Indians that the whole transaction was going to be in their favour. The Indians were not aware of the fact that he was not working in their interest. That is the way it was represented to me, and I am told it was on this representation that the Indians consented to this agreement. Now the lease holders are not carrying out this agreement, and the Indians have been much dissatisfied with the transaction.

Mr. OLIVER. My information is that the Indians have made no representations to the department or to any officer of the department with regard to any breach of contract with them, or any failure to carry out the agreements that were made with them. If my hon. friend knows of any breach of agreement it would be a favour to the Indian Department for him to state the particulars in which that agreement was not being carried out. We pride ourselves on carrying out our agreements with the Indians, all the more because the Indian is not in a position to enforce his rights.

Mr. LAKE. In the papers I find that on May, 31, McKenna writes of dissatisfaction

with the Indians on account of the lease. In December, 1904, the department seems to have taken this matter into consideration and consents to a visit of the Blood chiefs to the east at the expense of the D. McEwen Company in order to have the matter explained to them so that the papers themselves show that there was dissatisfaction and that it was brought to the attention of the department. As to what further dissatisfaction there may be at present, of course the hon. member for Alberta (Mr. Herron) will be in a better position to speak of that.

Mr. OLIVER. Has the member for Alberta (Mr. Herron) anything definite to say?

Mr. HERRON. No, as I said in the beginning, I am not supplied with official information in regard to this, but I know it from rumour in the country and from people who are well posted as to what is going on. I do not shirk getting the information.

Mr. OLIVER. This reserve has been made a political and partisan issue of the lowest kind in the House, and we may as well deal with it now on that basis. My hon. friend has intimated that there were breaches of the agreement as between the Indians and the lessees but he has not been able to tell us what they were. We will be glad to hear it at any time because we want to be informed of these matters. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Lake) undertakes to represent that there were breaches of the agreement.

Mr. LAKE. I represented what is in the document, that his own commissioner said there was dissatisfaction.

Mr. OLIVER. He said he had evidence in his hand that there were breaches of the agreement and he read from the paper; but there were no evidences of breach of agreement in the paper.

Mr. LAKE. I did not say I had evidence of breaches of agreement.

Mr. OLIVER. Then he had no evidences of breaches of agreement because he certainly had not in the paper he had.

Mr. LAKE. I want the minister to take that back, I did not state I had evidences of breaches of agreement.

Mr. OLIVER. I will take it back if my hon. friend said he has no evidence. The paper he read did not show any breaches of agreement, it indicated that the Indians were dissatisfied.

Mr. LAKE. That is all I said.

Mr. OLIVER. My hon. friend will not find in the west any band of Indians who are not more or less dissatisfied now or at any time. In his district he will find very few white men who are not dissatisfied in