

first, that the boundaries of St. Peter's parish should be a mile farther south than they are. This, he points out, would include the beautiful town of Selkirk and the magnificent lands lying east and west for two miles on each side of the river. He points out, secondly, that the St. Peter's Indians own every acre of the old parish of St. Peter's and are entitled to patents for the same, as this parish was included in the reserve by the government wrongfully in 1874, as it was the private property of this band under the Manitoba Act. Chief Justice Howell points out to the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, that after depriving the Indians of their rights as settlers to this magnificent estate, he proceeds to make a bargain, not with the band, but with the chief and his four councillors for the surrender of the reserve, and in doing so placed the following clause in the agreement:

The surrender shall release lands in the present reserve from all claims of the band and from each individual thereof, from all or any claims, under the Manitoba Act, or the Indian Act, and each member of the band shall sign a release to this effect when he receives his patent.

This is a phase of the question which I have tried to emphasize, in the earlier part of my remarks, by pointing out that these Indians declared that they had never signed any receipt for their patents or any release of their rights under the Manitoba Act. The band also claim that the terms of surrender were never explained to them in their own language, and that they did not know what they were doing. We have the affidavits of William Asham and other Indians which I have quoted to this House, and which state distinctly that when Mr. Pedley came to the reserve with the agreement of surrender all prepared, without any consultation with the band whatever, he arranged the matter with the chief and his councillors, who had been bribed to agree to the surrender—that he came there and read that surrender in English, and read it so fast that even those who understood English hardly followed it or grasped its meaning. This is a serious state of affairs, and something that this parliament ought to take cognizance of, and that in the interest of everything that is fair to the Indians, ought to be thoroughly investigated. I do not see how hon. gentlemen can contend for one moment that justice has been done or that any attempt has been made to do justice by the minister who is responsible for this outrage.

Now I wish to refer for a moment to a report made by the Rev. Dr. MacDougall. I want to say frankly that I hardly consider the report worthy of mentioning in this House, as I regard it as a fiasco. The hon. minister sent the Rev. Dr. MacDougall to make a report on what he found on the St.

Mr. BRADBURY.

Peter's reserve. The hon. gentleman seems very fortunate in getting hold of these clerical gentlemen to pull his chestnuts out of the fire. I will read the instructions to the Rev. Dr. MacDougall:

Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, 27th September, 1910.

I am directed to request that you will be good enough to proceed to the St. Peter's Indian reserve and also to the new reserve set apart for these Indians at Fisher River, and ascertain the general condition of these Indians and the progress that is being made in the removal to the new reserve. The Department would like to be advised as to the number of Indians that have removed and what steps should be taken to facilitate further movements, and how such removals can best be accomplished and at what time.

I can tell what will facilitate removal—do justice to the Indians.

The Indian agent has been instructed to hold an election of chief and councillors for these Indians but no report has been received in connection therewith. It would be well to ascertain what progress has been made in this matter, and report.

This is another of the outrages that have been perpetrated on this band of Indians. They were practically taken by the throat by the Indian agent at Selkirk, as must have been reported to the Deputy Superintendent General or to the minister. They have refused to allow this band of Indians to have an election ever since that surrender was made—why? Because they realized that as soon as an election took place the chief and council, who had betrayed the band, who had sold themselves to the government to agree to this surrender, would be put out of office, and another class of men would be put in office, who would contest this surrender at every inch of the way. For that reason these Indians have been denied the right which they have enjoyed ever since they were a band of having an election every two or three years. In any case they were entitled to an election the year after this surrender took place, but they have never been able to secure consent to have an election since, so that those men who betrayed the band and who sold themselves to secure this surrender still hold office.

Referring to this report, I would like to ask why was it necessary to choose the Rev. Dr. MacDougall to find out how many Indians had been removed from the old reserve to the new? Why, we have two Indian inspectors in Winnipeg and one in Selkirk, the Rev. John Semmens, drawing \$1,200 to \$1,500 each per year, and one or two others drawing the same salaries. The Indian agent in Selkirk could have got that information, but the minister sent out the Rev. Dr. MacDougall to make an investigation. Dr. MacDougall went out first to the new reserve and held a meeting