up with the St. Peter's band of Indians, near Selkirk, the question of the surrender of their reserve at that place. When this reserve, consisting of about 55,000 acres, was set aside in 1871, provision was made that the rights of the parties holding lands within the boundaries of the reserve should be protected, and as a result of this some 5,000 acres have been patented to parties other than Indians. In order to settle the remaining outstanding claims Chief Justice Howell of Manitoba was appointed a commissioner in November, 1906, for this purpose, and from several interviews with him I judge that there would be from 1,500 to 2,000 acres still to be patented, thus leaving as belonging to the reserve proper about 48,000 acres.

This was the area that I dealt with in my negotiations with the Indians for a surrender. Upon such terms as the government of Canada may deem most conducive to our welfare and that of our people, and upon the further condition that all moneys received from the sale thereof shall, after deducting the usual proportion, for expenses of management, be paid as follows, namely: one-half of said sum remaining to be paid to us the year following the receipt of same by the government after sale of said lands, the balance of said proceeds of sale to be funded for our benefit and the interest to be paid to us annually. At each sayment as aforesaid the sum so paid shall be divided so that the chief shall receive each year the sum of \$6 more than that to which the other individual members of the band shall be entitled. And upon the further conditions that out of the said St. Peter's reserve now surrendered there shall be granted an area not exceeding 21,000 acres to the members of the band as follows: to the chief 180 acres, not the ex-chief and each councillor 120 acres, and to the other conditions that out of the said St. Peter's reserve had a for a family of five; grants to be made also in similar proportions to widows and to unmarried men and women over 21 years of age. In addition to the said 21,000 acres above mentioned there shall be set aside 3,000 acres of hay land for the members of the band having land in the present reserve. The department shall advance at the time of the surrender the sum of \$5,000 to be repaid out of the first moneys received from the saile of the lands?

It will be seen that by this surrender the government secured 48,000 acres of land. This land was all situated within a radius of 25 or 26 miles of the city of kinnipeg. The Red river passes right through the centre of the reserve; the banks on each side of the river were high, making this an ideal area of farming land. I have no hesitation in saying that 85 per cent of this land is first-class, and was the best land to be found in the province of Manitoba. This government that boasts in this House, and out of it, that its policy is: the land for the settler, and not for the speculator; with this boast still warm on its lips, and still ringing in the 'ears of the people of this country lends itself to this scandalous transaction by which nearly 35,000 acres out of the 48,000 acres

passed into the hands of a few of its political friends for less than one-third of its actual value. And now, the poor settler that this government has been so much exercised about, that this government has proclaimed to the country that it is protecting and keeping the lands for; these poor settlers are forced to go to these land-ed gentry, the friends of the government, who obtained the land for a mere pittance. and pay, not twice as much, not three times as much, not five times as much as these gentlemen paid for the lands to the Indians, and to the government, but the settlers are actually paying to-day eight and ten times as much for an acre of these lands as the government allowed these speculators and party heelers to secure it This is the way this western policy of the government works out. That the House may understand the conditions I intend to lay before it facts which will show how this trick was worked. As the surrender I have read to the House indicates, the head of each Indian family of five was to have the right of dispos-ing of 80 acres of these lands; the head of a family of six would have 96 acres; the head of a family of seven would have 112 acres. It will be seen that the heads of these Indian families, poor, ignorant Indians that never owned an acre of land in their lives before, were made competent by this government to hold and transfer, and sell lands worth in the vicinity of half a million dollars. A fair average of the holdings of these Indians was not less than from \$1,200 to \$1,500, and I am satisfied in view of the evidence that I will endeavour to lay before this House, that when the government were giving these lands to the Indians they knew that these lands would simply pass from the Indians to the white men, and that the deal was arranged for. In addition to the 21,000 acres that were allotted to the Indians, and the 2,000 or 3,000 acres that were set aside for the hay lands, the government were supposed to auction the bal-ance of the land, and some 15,000 acres were sold at public auction. Now, Mr. Speaker, some time ago I drew the attention of the minister to the fact that great dissatisfaction prevailed among the Indians over the manner in which these lands had been handled, and the manner in which the surrender had been secured. The Indians claimed that they had been practically robbed of their lands by a few Grit party agents, and land speculators under the very nose of the Indian agent, who seemed to be looking after the interests of the speculator more than he was looking after the interests of the Indian whom he newear such trict befo tion of w urgi sati if h wro

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