

the Indians. We send missionaries, official missionaries, to the North-West Territories to humiliate, to lower, to degrade and debase the virgin daughters of the wards of the nation, and yet we find people expressing their surprise and astonishment that the Indians do not take kindly to the ways of modern civilisation, and that after the munificent donations which Parliament votes every year to feed, clothe and keep in comfort the wild Indians of the plains, they are still dissatisfied, still discontented, still rebellious. I say again that to my mind the marvel is that years ago the Indians did not use the tomahawk and scalping knife and clean out of the North-West Territories the lazy, indolent, incompetent and immoral class of officials who have been appointed by this Administration to administer Indian affairs in the North-West Territories. The statements I make may be considered somewhat extravagant, but I shall prove every one of them before I resume my seat by official documents submitted by this Government to this Parliament, and a mass of independent testimony that, to my mind, is simply overwhelming. If you refer to one of the reports of one of the Departments brought down last year, you will find that 45 per. cent of one class of officials in the North-West were under medical treatment for a peculiar kind of disease in one year. That you will admit, is an extraordinary showing for a class of men paid by the people of this country to control, manage and set an example to the Indians of the North-West Territories. Sir, that report speaks in unmistakable terms of the condition of those guardians of public peace and public morals. At one station it points out that there were fifty-eight cases in one year; at another station there were forty-seven cases under medical treatment in ten months; at a third station there were in eleven months seventy-four cases under medical treatment; at a fourth station in 1884 there were sixty cases under medical treatment. In a division of the force in eleven months there were twenty-one cases, and the aggregate shows that there were at least 45 per cent. of this class of officials in the North-West Territories who were suffering from this class of disease. The *Mail* newspaper, to which I suppose hon. gentlemen will not object as a witness in this part of the discussion—the *Mail* newspaper of the 30th of January, 1886, publishes an interview with one of the missionaries employed by one of the leading churches of the Dominion, to civilise and christianise the Indians. That missionary said :

“But what we want in our reserves are married men as employees, and a few hundred dollars expended in putting up houses for them would pay in the end. And, let me say, get Christian men: thank God there are such to be found; and don't employ a man because some influential man down east wants to get a situation for him. Again, put a stop to white men living with Indian women unless they are lawfully married to them. Where are the young girls of 13 to 16 that have been partly taught in our schools; and others before them? Sold to white men for from \$10 to \$20! Where are their children? Running about the reserves wearing rags! Where are the women themselves? They are prostitutes hanging around the towns. Stop the sale of Indian girls to white men and another great step is taken.”

Now, Sir, I say that every calm, thoughtful, thinking man will conclude that this is an extraordinary condition of affairs. This missionary tells us that the very children from the mission schools are absorbed into this population for the vilest and most unholy purposes. Mr. McDougall, who is the missionary to whom I have alluded, in the same interview when asked to explain the true condition of affairs, said :

“He urges a change, and the Indians given a fair chance; he wants the Government's Indian policy—to make the Indian a responsible citizen—carried out in its true spirit. To do this he asks for employees of the Indian Department who will be true to their country if not to their God, who will refrain from licentiousness, blasphemy, drunkenness, and laziness, who will have force of character enough to command general respect, and who will by precept and example teach the Indians industry, thrift and obedience to the law.”

The *Mail* newspaper of the 2nd of February, 1886, publishes an interview with Mr. James Grier, to whom I have already alluded, in which the following occurs:—

“Then the conversation drifted back to the Indians, and I asked him if he knew of any frauds that had been committed on them. He answered: ‘I know any amount of corruption exists in the Indian Department, and I know that many of the officials have one squaw or two. This is a matter of public notoriety.’”

I ask you, after having heard this evidence, whether I am not amply justified in the charge I have made against this Government, that they appointed to positions of public trust in the North-West Territories, from among their army of carpet-baggers and camp followers, some of the most unfit men that ever occupied public positions. I say this condition of affairs is well known to the Government, and has been well known to the Government for a number of years. I say that it is a scandalous condition of affairs to exist in any country, and a disgrace to the Government that would tolerate it for one hour. I say that they have not only been guilty of sending this class of people to the North-West Territories, but they have been guilty of breaking faith with the Indians. The solemn covenants entered into with the Indians have been shamefully, openly, persistently and systematically broken by this Government. The confidence which the Indian usually has in the Sovereign of this Dominion, has been shaken. He can no longer rely on the faith of the Crown, and the result has been a rebellion in the North-West Territories, in which the Indians took no unimportant part, and the result is that to-day I solemnly believe, from the testimony that comes from the North-West, that this Dominion is standing on the brink of a volcano, which may burst forth at any moment. The evidence upon this point of broken faith, violated treaties, unfulfilled obligations is so clear that it is almost unnecessary to discuss it. But in order that the matter may be put beyond peradventure, I propose to establish it out of the blue-books submitted to this Parliament during the last four or five years; I propose to prove it by the testimony of the organs and friends of hon. gentlemen opposite. The *Mail* newspaper of the 13th January, 1886, publishes another interview with the Rev. Mr. McDougall, the missionary from the Methodist Church to the Stoney Indians near Calgary. In that interview Mr. McDougall says :

“The ‘Government is false to the treaty, the white men have lied to us, we are deceived,’ the Indians said, and it required the services of loyal old-timers to point out to them why, through unavoidable delays, lack of speedy transport, &c., the obligations of the Government were sometimes unfulfilled. But Mr. McDougall says: ‘We could not find, nor did we try to find, any excuse for the promises made but not fulfilled, for the cut-throat policy often exhibited and sometimes enforced by officials of the Indian Department, for the shameful and immoral lives of many of the employees of the same. Some of these were a disgrace to the lowest barbarism, let alone civilisation. Nor how could we, when earnestly trying to teach Indians habits of industry and thrift, be expected to excuse the laziness and incompetency of many sent into the country to teach the wards of the Government those lessons we have been working for them to acquire for so many years. Moreover, could we be blamed when we felt strongly that something was wrong in the system which allowed such men in its branch of the service. The inconsistency has oftentimes appeared to us very glaring when we looked at a department claiming to have a certain object in view, set aside by the country at large, whose servant it is, to attain this object, and yet within its own grasp and power doing those things and adopting those methods which are defeating their object.’”

The Rev. Father Scollen, a missionary priest for twenty-four years among the Indians of the North-West Territories, and now, or at all events recently, in the service of this Administration, speaks as follows of the treatment of the Indians by the Government:—

“That the half-breed rising had not necessarily been the cause of the Indian rising, from the fact that the Indians had been prepared to rise long before the half-breeds had made any movement at all. They had been prepared to take the first opportunity no matter what it was. If any other parties had got into trouble with the Government or caused the Government trouble, the Indians would have taken advantage of that just as they did the half-breed rising. They had known, and they know to-day that they could not fight the white man, hence they had