

E. McColl, Inspector of Agencies, speaking of the Long Plain band, says: "As the oxen are useless, one blind and one very old, they want the agent to be allowed to exchange them for others."

Thus two agents report the same thing. The truth of the matter is that the oxen, for which we paid enormous sums, were so useless that they had to be disposed of within the year. The whole thing is an outrage Parliament should not tolerate. The Government should be held to a strict account, and I propose to hold them to a strict account, for this wasteful expenditure of public money. I find further that the Indian account is charged with payments to Mr. Baker of \$95 each for three wagons, although I find that the Government could and did buy from other contractors better wagons at \$75 each. In other words, the people had to pay, \$37.50 more for each wagon than they were worth. There are still some items to which I would draw Mr. Speaker, your particular attention. The Indian account was charged a year or two ago with still more curious items. Among them are a table cloth and a napkin for His Grace the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the Northwest, \$6.70; for washing his blankets, \$6.50; 150 yards of cotton, \$21.20; 100 yards of cotton, \$13.62; painting, varnishing and cleaning Government house carriage, \$10; kitchen utensils, \$37. Now, we pay Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney, as Lieutenant-Governor, \$4,000 a year; we pay him further as commissioner, \$3,200 a year; and we nearly \$2,000; we supply him with other contingencies required for travelling, such as horses, sleighs, buckboards, &c., and surely he ought to wash his own blankets and varnish his own carriage, instead of charging these things to the Indian account. In 1882 the Indian account is charged for a horse for the commissioner, \$160; repairs to harness, \$18.25; sundry articles, of which the items are not given, \$146.45; sundries again, \$57.60; two other horses, \$275; two other horses for the commissioner's interpreter, \$165; two horses again for commissioner, \$340; two horses for Mr. Wadsworth, \$110. So that Mr. Dewdney, in that year, got from the Indian Department five horses for his own use that cost \$775, every one of which was charged to the Indian account. Why, in the name of common sense, should Commissioner Dewdney get out of the Indian fund five horses in one year, costing the people no less a sum than \$775. Mr. Wadsworth, who does a great deal more travelling and ten times the work that Mr. Dewdney does, gets a pair of horses for \$110 or \$55 each, while Mr. Dewdney's cost as high in one case as \$170 each. In 1883, the Indian account is charged with another horse for Mr. Dewdney at \$100, and again in the same year with a buckboard at \$150. Now, I state here that there is not a gentleman in this House, who knows anything about the Northwest Territories, but who will declare that a buckboard, fit for any gentleman to travel in, can be obtained there at from \$40 to \$60; yet the country was charged \$150 for this one. Mr. Dewdney also got another buckboard, in that year, at \$80, making two buckboards costing \$230, which were paid for out of the Indian fund, and which were charged to the Indian account. In the following year, I find charged to that account, one set of harness for the commissioner, \$35; another horse for the commissioner, \$150; washing the towels of the commissioner, \$6; 2 wagons and harness for the two inspectors, \$528. I would like to know what kind of wagons were those two that cost \$528. In that year again, there is charged to Indian account, one buckboard, \$117; one wagon and harness, \$100; and another buckboard, \$115. In 1885, another buckboard is charged to Indian account at \$125. In the report for 1886, the same account is charged with one mare for commissioner, \$125; one pair of horses for Mr. McRae, \$365; one buckboard for Mr. McRae, \$166; one sleigh for commissioner, \$40. Why, every single thing is charged to the Indian account; yet Mr. Dewdney draws nearly \$2,000 a year for travelling expenses. In the same year, we paid \$1,492 to Baker & Co., and others, for advances made, and this same year \$20,150 was charged to Indian account for travelling expenses. Among some of the items not open to discussion are the following: P. G. Williams, paid for travelling expenses from Piesan River to Crooked Lake, \$183; J. A. Hargrave, \$125 for one desk for Winnipeg office. Can you imagine, Sir, the kind of desk that would cost \$125 for an Indian office? My knowledge is too limited to enable me to grasp that great subject. Mr. Wadsworth was allowed \$100 for a buckboard—\$40 is the average price. I now come to a couple of other items, which will be found interesting. Three thousand nine hundred and forty-eight dollars is charged as spent on potatoes for one band of Indians—the Indians under Treaty No. 6. The Indians under Treaty No. 6, are charged with \$473.87 for garden seeds in 1883; in 1884 the same Indians are charged with \$742.59 for garden seeds; and in 1885 the same Indians are charged again with \$810.78 for garden seeds, so that, in the three years I have given, these Indians were charged with \$2,027 worth of garden seeds. I mean to say that the Indians never got these seeds to this extent, or if they did it was a scandalous waste of the public, or rather Indian, money. I mean to say, Sir, that \$2,000 worth of garden seeds would seed every garden in the whole Northwest, from the Western boundary of Manitoba to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, and then leave enough to seed part of the Province of Ontario. And yet these Indians were charged with \$2,027 for garden seeds during the past three years. This item alone exhibits an extravagance, recklessness and waste on the part of the Administration which is simply incredible. It is simply disgraceful that any Government should tolerate this condition of affairs for a single year, and the fact that this Government has tolerated it reflects no credit upon them. I have these shown by evidence which cannot be contradicted that the Indian service in the Northwest is filled with carpet baggers and camp followers, with men incompetent to fulfil the duties they are called upon to discharge, with men of bad habits and worse morals, with men who minimize the truth, with men

who yet have not been able to distinguish between meum and tuum. I have shown you that we have dealt harshly and cruelly with the Indians, that we have broken our solemn promises, that we have violated every line of every treaty that we made with the Indians, that we have permitted our agents and middlemen to rob and steal from the Indians, that our agents have allowed those Indians to be frozen to death and starved to death, and that in the midst of plenty. Sensible men, reasonable men, foresaw long ago what would be the inevitable result of the foolish and mad policy pursued by this Administration towards the Indians. The policy of submission by a policy of starvation. Sensible men could see that the only ending would be that which was shown in the terrible outbreak of last year. Sensible men can see now that the condition of the Indians there requires the earliest attention of the Parliament. It is possible to open the eyes of hon. gentlemen opposite? I have almost despaired of it. The Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, in his report for 1886, says:

"The Indians who rebelled do not plead grievances in extenuation of their having done so. I know that the supporters of the Government, in Parliament and out of Parliament, and the press supporting hon. gentlemen opposite, and all those who clamored for the blood of Louis Riel, in order if possible to increase his criminality, have declared that, had it not been for him, the Indians of the Northwest would not have taken up arms. That is true in a sense and it is not true. It is true that the action of Louis Riel was the spark which fired the train, but I say the combustible material was there all the same. It slumbered for seven years, but it only slumbered. It is not true that the action of Louis Riel was the only or the main cause of the Indians joining their kindred, the half-breeds, in the recent insurrection in the Northwest Territory. The Indian on the whole is a peaceable, quiet, law-abiding, loyal subject of her Majesty the Queen, and it required a good deal more than the mad freaks of a fanatic to induce the Indians to take up arms against the sovereign power of this Dominion. I say that every man not blinded by party prejudice, every man who has eyes open, who is willing to stop, must see that the policy, the avowed policy of the Administration and of their officials in the Northwest, had a great deal to do, had everything to do, with the outbreak of the Indians, and that that policy was sooner or later eventuate in an armed insurrection. The way to maintain the loyalty of the Indian is not by violating solemn engagements, not by breaking every treaty entered into with the Indian, but by unflinchingly and honestly fulfilling the promises made by the Government, not by cheating, robbing and swindling the Indians, not by cruel and harsh treatment, not by death from cold and starvation; and of all these things I charge that this Government through their agents have been guilty. I propose to read one or two other extracts to establish the proposition I have laid down. The Rev. John McLean, Methodist missionary to the Blood Indians near Fort Macleod, discussed the half-breed and Indian question in the August number of The Canadian Methodist Magazine. He says:

"The causes of the present discontent among the Indians are legion. Some of the men employed by the Department on the reservations have been granted their positions through political influence, even though they have been utterly incompetent for the respective duties of their offices. They receive good salaries, and yet the Indians derive very little benefit from their services. Promises have been made to the Indians by Government officials that have never been kept. The Department has professed to give these people food enough to sustain them, yet at different times their rations have been cut down. They have been told that they were to remain on their reservations, but it was impossible for them to do so on their daily allowance. About a million dollars a year is now granted by the Dominion Parliament for the Indian service, but a high official in the Northwest has stated that not one-fourth of this sum, or the equivalent of one fourth, ever reaches the Indians. The money is filtered through the hands of jobbers, supply men, agents, and other speculators until the Indian's share is reduced to very little, indeed."

Archbishop Tache says: "The Indians, who should have been cared for and protected by the Government, were left a prey to the seductions of men revoltingly immoral, and when this was pointed out the friends of humanity had another regret to register. He alleges that in other cases the Indians were deprived of the pittance assigned to them, or it was given to them as if they were dogs! They were too often deceived. At the risk of creating great surprise, I affirm that the massacres were not committed by the Indians, as is often proclaimed. I here invoke the testimony of one of the victims himself. The Rev. Father Fafard said, in conversation with another missionary, who in turn related it to me:—'Such a one (naming an official) acts with shameful brutality towards the Indians. He will be killed some day.' The person alluded to was killed, and two devoted missionaries increased the number of victims they were striving to protect. A gentleman whose veracity I cannot question assures me that some Indians had told him in 1884 that an individual, whom he mentioned, 'treated them like dogs,' and the same individual was killed by the Indians who had lodged the complaint against him."

Rev. Mr. McDougall says: "We could not find, nor did we try to find, any excuse for the promises made but not fulfilled, for the cruel threat 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 civilization. Nor how could we not 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 often times 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 servants it is to obtain this object, and yet within its own grasp and power doing those things and adopting those methods which are defeating their object. Very little rebellion in these men ten or fifteen years ago, and had the conduct of Government officials of every department sent into this country been such as to command the respect of the natives there would have been no rebellion on the part of the Indians last spring, nor would the smouldering influences thereof have been in the hearts of many. The same system is being continued without change. Not one of the officials complained of has been removed or interfered with. The Government have refused to accept advice from any quarter."

Mr. Jackson, in the speech from which we have already quoted, says: "I heard some of the men say, who took up arms against the police, to protect themselves; (It was said before some responsible citizens of Fort Qu'Appelle): 'We had to do it or starve to death, and we preferred to die by the police bullets rather than die by starvation.' Instead of dealing fairly and honestly by the Indian, as we ought to have done; instead of maintaining the broken treaty obligations with the Indian, we pursued, and we still pursue, that mad and reckless and inhuman policy of submission by starvation. The Indian agent, in his report of 1883, speaking of Way-way-see-Cappo's and Gambler's bands, says: 'They have become particularly independent, and have undertaken to compel me to give them what they required. Gambler's band were also very independent, and did not so much as I refused to give seed wheat to those who received it last year and kept some of the seed; consequently most of the others refused to take seed. However, both these bands can get work if they want it, and a little starvation will do them good.' I say it is worse than folly for the First Minister to say that the Indians who rebelled did not plead grievances in extenuation of their having done so. It is stopping one's ears; it is closing one's eyes; it is being wilfully blind to the evidence that is submitted to Parliament in almost every page of the reports of the Department of Indian Affairs and of the Northwest Mounted Police. The hon. gentleman knows the Administration ought to have known, the terrible experience of the neighboring republic with just such a policy; we ourselves know from our experience and the reports of our agents in the Northwest, what the effect of such a policy would be. 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