

THE ADMINISTRATION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS IN THE NORTH-WEST.

No fouler blot is to be found on the fair fame of Canada than the disgraceful administration of Indian affairs in the North-West, with Sir John Macdonald as the chief head of that branch of the public service. The reports of the department are eloquent with statements of wrongs done to the Indians, promises broken, violated Treaties, and the shameful misconduct of those appointed to official positions in the North-West; all furnishing proofs that cheating and robbing the Indians had been reduced to a science.

Instead of men of high moral standing, truthfulness and honesty being chosen to preside over the Indians of the North-West, the Government selected from a swarm of camp followers those who were unfit for positions of respectability in the older Provinces, and who have since proved themselves to be dishonest, untruthful and grossly immoral.

The public accounts show over \$1,100,000 charged annually to Indian affairs, but a very large proportion of that amount finds its way into the pockets of the hordes of official thieves who have been placed in responsible positions by the government.

Flour furnished by the contractors has been stigmatized in official reports as "stinking." Trowsers and shirts have been supplied "which were inferior and worn out in three or four days." (*See Official Report of G. McPherson, Indian Agent.*) Mr. McColl, Inspector of Agencies, says of the seeds furnished for the Indian farms, "The potatoes and barley were half rotten."

Mr. Herchemer, in his report of 1883, says, "A great deal of sickness has visited them lately, caused by the want of fresh meat. The Indians, under treaty 4, received in 1884-5, \$15,290.92 worth of pork, and \$1,288.45 worth of beef, although it is known that beef is life to the Indian of the plains, while salt pork is disease and death to him.' For the salt pork the officials paid 20 to 25 cents per pound, and they could have procured all the fresh beef required for 8½ to 15 cents per pound.