

clearly established that there was great discontent before the Union, and that discontent was wholly on account of the local mismanagement of the affairs in connection with the reservation of land to the Indians. The Local Government might depend upon it that until the grievances of the Indians were removed and they were allowed to obtain a fair share of the land they could not expect to have peace and quietness. No white people would submit to the usage that the Indians had received, and they could not expect the Indians to submit to it. He had no doubt that the Indians would be satisfied with what had been done by the Dominion Government in the direction of securing them their rights.

Mr. DE COSMOS said that all that the Dominion Government was bound by the Act of Union to do, was to treat the Indians of the Province as liberally as the Government of British Columbia was accustomed to do before the Union, and in case any dispute should arise with respect to the Indian lands it was to be referred to the Colonial Secretary.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—It has been referred.

Mr. DE COSMOS proceeded to say that the quantity of land given to the Indians previous to the Union, did not exceed ten acres for each family, and yet the Dominion Government now wanted the Local Government to give them eighty acres. If the Dominion Government wanted any more land for the Indians they could purchase it.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE—We do not intend to purchase land for that purpose, but we will probably require that the Columbia Government shall extinguish the Indian title.

Mr. BUNSTER contended that the Commissioners sent up to British Columbia were not fitted to perform their duties. They did not understand the Indian language, and when the Indians would go to them, they could get no satisfaction. There were plenty of men in British Columbia familiar with the Indian language who would have been well fitted to fulfil the duties of Commissioners.

Hon. Mr. LAIRD said that the dissatisfaction of the Indians arose entirely out of the land question, and until that was settled the Commissioners could do very little. He understood that the

leading Commissioner was a medical man and was very popular among the Indians, and had been the means of conciliating them when their discontent might have taken a serious form. The principal objection to the other Commissioner was that he did not belong to British Columbia, but that objection was not made by the Indians, who were, he believed, well satisfied with him. The hon. member for Victoria was mistaken in saying that the Commissioners had done nothing, as he (Mr. LAIRD) was aware of the contrary. It was the intention of the Commissioners to go through the Province and organize the Department, establishing agencies and schools, and aiding the Indians in agricultural pursuits, but it was impossible to do anything in that direction until the Indians knew where their reservations were to be. The hon. member for Victoria had stated that the British Columbia Government gave the Indians all the land they could utilize. That might have been the case years ago, when ten acres to a family was enough for agricultural purposes, because game was plentiful and the Indians had plenty of hunting grounds. But that state of things had, to a great extent, changed, and the Indians now required a much larger reserve. However, the British Columbia Government had not, so far, given the Indians more than ten acres to a family. He (Mr. LAIRD) contended that eighty acres for each family was not too much, and he thought the Local Government had not acted fairly with the Indians in restricting their reserve to ten acres to a family. With respect to the Indian Boards he must admit that they had not been entirely successful either in Manitoba or British Columbia. In both Provinces the Lieutenant Governors did not care to act upon the Boards, and the Government had not pressed them. In the meantime they were endeavouring to make other arrangements to carry out the organization of the Department in British Columbia, and it was probable they would have to establish the system adopted in Ontario; that was, to divide the Province into superintendencies and appoint a superintendent over each district. The present system of an Indian Board was the suggestion of the late Mr. Howe, and it was thought the best system that could be adopted, on account of the difficulty of communicating

*Hon. Mr. Mackenzie.*