

Mr. Jackson, a member of the North-West Council, a life-long Conservative, a man who boasts that he has been an unswerving and faithful supporter of the First Minister of this Dominion for a period of twenty-five years, in a speech delivered by him at Qu'Appelle in January last, thus speaks of Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney and the officials of the North-West Territory:

"Everything is quiet, there is no danger. I say that if the Indian agents were not in a position then to tell what was the state of the Indian mind at that time, then they were unfit for the position they held; and a stronger argument that the chief of the Department was not fitted for his post I do not want than that he allowed his Indian agents to persuade him that everything was peaceable and quiet, while the whole thing was a seething volcano, ready to burst forth at any moment, and Mr. Dewdney was the only innocent man in the country. That shows that things in the Indian Department are rotten to the core, and should be weeded out (Hear, hear.) Had he exercised his proper functions, and done what was expected of him, the Government would have been induced, because of the gravity of the situation, to deal with the matter, and thus have averted this great rebellion. He failed to do that; and if the Government care anything at all for the feelings of the people of this country, they will sweep away that which is rotten and despicable, and place an honest man, who will fulfil his duties, in the position of Lieutenant-Governor. (Cheers.) I have shown you that he had neglected his duties, and prostituted his position as Indian Commissioner; that he has allowed people to starve to death. I can show you that he said at Qu'Appelle Station that the Indians of the north might give trouble, but that he felt sure the Indians of Treaty No. 4 would give no trouble to the Government. If that is the fact, and if he allowed men, women and children to go to their death without a warning, that man was accessory before the fact. (Loud cheers.) Gentlemen, these are all facts. At the Session of Parliament, I think 1883-83, or 1883-84, when Sir John Macdonald, whom I have followed for twenty-five years, and who has always found me an active supporter, got up in his place as Premier of the Dominion, and said that Mr. Dewdney was one of the best appointments he ever made, I confess it completely knocked the wind out of me. (Laughter.)"

I do not wonder that it knocked the wind out of this member of the North-West Council. The extracts I have read from the organs of the Government, and the revelations I shall make before I resume my seat, together with the statement made by the First Minister with respect to Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney, will prove enough to knock the wind out of anyone. The *Mail* newspaper of 2nd February, 1886, reports an interview which the correspondent of that paper had with a person by the name of Mr. James Grier, who lives in the neighborhood of Old Man's River, and was a former resident of the county of Grey and had been reeve of the township in which he resided for 15 years. Mr. James Grier says, on this subject:

"Another great grievance in the North-West is the importation of carpet-baggers to fill official positions. This is not, however, so seriously felt now as it has been. But on all sides but one opinion is expressed—that the North-West now has men capable of filling the offices, and that they should be chosen, all other things being equal, for the vacancies that occur."

Let me now give the opinion of clergymen:

"At the Presbytery meeting at Brandon, Manitoba, Rev. Mr. Cameron, who spent many years among the Indians about Battleford, contended that "Indian uprising was in a great measure due to the character of the instructors and agents appointed by the Government. If the Government officials had been the right kind of men the uprising would never have taken place. In many cases their treatment of the Indians was calculated to have a most injurious effect—some of them treating the Indians like dogs—never speaking to them without an oath, and paying no regard whatever to their word." The rev. gentleman remarked that it would spoil good Indians to make them like some of the Indian Department officials who are over them, and supposed to be civilising them. Mr. Cameron's statements were confirmed by Rev. Messrs. Robertson, Flett, and other Indian missionaries, who maintained that the Indian revolt was in a great measure due to the character of the Government officials sent amongst them."

I say that is an extraordinary condition of affairs. Those people are on the spot and know whereof they speak, and so knowing whereof they speak, they so described the officials sent by this Government to administer Indian affairs in the North-West. Mr. McDougall, one of the Methodist missionaries, who has devoted his life to the service of elevating, educating, civilising and christianising the Indians, thus speaks of the officials:

"Mr. McDougall points out the great difficulty of governing from Ottawa, and says that 'laws were enacted which could not be enforced'; Mr. CAMERON (Huron).

furthermore simply unfit men were appointed to office without any knowledge of the nature of the work expected of them, the Indians and the country, and Government having to run the risk in the meanwhile of being experimented upon."

Hon. Lawrence Clarke, at one time a member of the North-West Council thus speaks of the class of men who were sent by this Government to administer Indian affairs:

"Brutal ruffians were appointed as farm instructors over the Indians, who maltreated the poor people in the most brutal manner, answering them with kicks and blows, accompanied with showers of profanity and disgusting epithets; of the farm instructors killed by the Indians two were universally known to be brutal wretches such as I have mentioned, and the priests lost their lives in attempting to save them from the pent-up wrath of the savages."

Mr. MITCHELL. Whose report is that?

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). That of the Hon. Lawrence Clarke, formerly a member of the North-West Council. He proceeds:

"Let a commissioner be appointed or a Committee of Parliament, and I pledge myself to show to the people of this Dominion such a picture of the facts as will make them wonder how it is that rebellion did not break out years ago. Had not the Indians been restrained by the priests and ministers, the farm instructors and other paid politicians appointed over them, would have been killed long ago."

Archbishop Taché, in his manifesto, speaking of the Indian troubles, says:

"There were some well qualified men, but important posts were assigned to men totally unqualified for the position, while other persons perfectly apt have been dismissed or left aside because ten, fifteen, or twenty years before they were political opponents."

Mr. Jackson, in his speech at Qu'Appelle, from which I have just quoted, said:

"A white man never believes in him. The Indian thinks of him as a man who does not tell the truth to-day, but might to-morrow; but that to-morrow never comes. (Laughter.)"

The *Winnipeg Times*, speaking of Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney, said:

"For the first time in the history of the British nation the representative of the Queen is known to the savage as a liar."

Such are the opinions of the friends of hon. gentlemen opposite; such are the opinions of the press supporting hon. gentlemen opposite, as to the character of the officials appointed by this Government to administer Indian affairs in the North-West, from Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney down to the farm instructors appointed by this Administration. I say it is a marvel to me, not that the Indians took up arms against the sovereign power of this country, but the marvel to me is that long years ago the Indians did not protest in the only way known to them against the misconduct, maladministration, incapacity and culpable neglect of this Administration. I go still further. I say the Government and the officials appointed by this Government have not only broken faith with the Indians, but many of the officials in the North-West Territories have debased and degraded the Indian character, until now, Sir, there is nothing left but the bare memory of what was once the noble red man of the plains. An organ of the Government, three years ago, called public attention to the fact that one of the agents of this Administration was living on a reserve, beneath the shadow of the Methodist mission, in open adultery with two young squaws. The Government were aware of it, but the Government never moved, never enquired, never investigated, and up to this hour, this unworthy representative of Ottawa officialdom administers Indian affairs in that particular locality. A young Englishman, unfit to do anything in his native country, was shipped off to Canada, consigned to the care of the First Minister of this Dominion. He was provided for in the Indian service of the North-West Territories, and he has been living there for three or four years revelling in the sensual enjoyments of a western harem, plentifully supplied with select cullings from the western prairie flowers. We send missionaries of the Cross to the North-West to educate and elevate, to civilise and christianise