

the covert insinuations he had brought against the Indian policy of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Coming to the present troubles he thought the cause of this restlessness amongst the Indians was attributable to various causes. First of all there was the transition from British to Canadian rule. This they did not comprehend. Colonial relations as we understood them were utterly strange to them. Hitherto they had lived on British Territory, and as they considered under British protection, but they were left alone with their hunting grounds free to them to roam over when and where they chose. They followed the buffalo and lived on it, and when starvation stared them in the face, as often it has done, they had always a *dernier resort* in the Hudson's Bay Company to fall back upon, but now things were altered. They heard of the white man coming in from Canada to take possession of their lands, to drive away the buffalo and exterminate them, and reasoning quite naturally they come to the conclusion that Canada was a different power from England; and here he might state that one great blunder was committed last summer which had not only had great effect in bringing about this state of things, but had in a great measure caused the Indians to lose any confidence they might have in Canadian faithfulness. Early in the season the Governor of the North West sent to the Chiefs on the Saskatchewan an autograph letter, informing them that the Indian Commissioner from Canada would meet them in the neighborhood of Fort Edmonston, in the month of August. The Governor did this in all good faith, relying on the Commissioner to fulfil the promise he had made, but what was the result? The tribes congregated from all parts in the month of August, they waited, but no Commissioner either came nor was anything heard of such a functionary making his approach. In the end, forced by sheer starvation, they left for their hunting grounds thoroughly convinced that no faith was to be placed on Canadian pledges or promises, and with the full determination to have nothing to do in the way of treaty with a nation on whom no reliance could be placed. It was altogether an unfortunate occurrence, for if there was one thing more than another that should be attended to in dealing with that people, it was carefulness in making promises when made.—(hear hear). But there were other causes for this state of things in the North-west; one of these was the American element. Were there no more involved in this than simply traffic in furs with the Indians, it would not necessarily involve much cause for concern or interference; but what was the essential element in this traffic? It was