

would have satisfied the Indians, forty-eight thousand acres of the best land in Manitoba. Then we should have had every acre of it settled by bona fide settlers to-day, but instead of that the Government of that day chose to play into the hands of a few speculators and only certain men could purchase these lands. A Conservative in the town of Selkirk at that time was told by the Indian agent that he need not attempt to buy the lands, that the department could give him no protection, and that he would be buying at his own risk. But Mr. Heap, a leading Liberal, Mr. Funk, a brother of Senator Funk of the United States, a very wealthy man, Mr. Frank of Winnipeg, another strong Liberal, and Mr. Tracy of Selkirk, another strong Liberal—these were the men who bought from the Indians the lands all the way from one dollar to five dollars and six dollars an acre. God knows how the Indian was paid, for the Indian himself does not know. When he went in to make a payment, he got, perhaps, a ten-dollar bill, and was asked to sign a receipt for it, and that receipt was a deed for the man's property, and nobody knows what he got afterwards. There is a letter on file from the Indian agent himself, who was in this transaction, who told his minister that after the first payment was made it depended entirely upon the honour of the purchaser what the Indian got. That is a sample of what was done and of what the hon. member for Edmonton would urge the Government to legalize. Why, if the Government of Canada were to legalize an action of this kind which has been exposed and proven, all I say is that there is very little justice for the poor unfortunate Indian.

I do not intend to take up much of the time of the House in dealing with this attempt made by my hon. friend (Mr. Oliver) to revive this case in the House. His advice to the Government is, practically, to validate these titles. Let us see how that would work out. Does he not know—I am sure he does—that the Registrar General of Manitoba has refused to issue a Torrens title on these patents issued by the Government and that before a Torrens title can issue some action must be taken by Parliament? Now, if that is true is that not evidence that the transaction was illegal in the first place, and if it was illegal why should it be legalized. I want to say, in passing, that I regret as much, and more, than the hon. gentleman from Edmonton, that this case was not settled years ago. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Oliver) ought to

[Mr. Bradbury.]

have settled this question before he went out of office, but he let the matter rest for three years without taking action. It may be said that that does not justify the delay on the part of the present Government. I am not going to argue that it does. This matter ought to have been settled, and those who had been in authority will bear me out when I say that no one has been more persistent than I have been in attempting to secure a settlement of this case year after year. I did not suggest the settlement that the hon. member for Edmonton wishes; I urged that the matter be taken to court and, if the surrender be proved legal, that the registrar general of Manitoba should recognize the patents and settle the matter for all time to come. The case is now, I understand, ready for trial in the Exchequer Court. It is worthy of remark that the very men who have been clamouring for a settlement of this case for the last four years have been making every effort possible to block the proceedings which have been taken to make it possible to secure an early settlement. What have these men to fear? If their conduct has been free from blame, why should they hesitate to allow this matter to go before the Exchequer Court for the opinion of the judge as to its legality? It is like the Irishman who went to an eminent lawyer when he was in trouble, and asked for his assistance. The eminent lawyer assured him that he would secure justice for him. "Well," said Pat, "it is not justice I want; I want to get out of this difficulty." And I think that some of the men who have obtained these lands do not want justice; they want to get the titles to the lands. This question ought to be settled, and the men who have secured these lands—some of which, I have no hesitation in saying, were literally stolen from the Indians—should not be allowed to retain them without recompensating the Indians in some way. Six of these men secured 35,000 acres of lands at less than \$5 an acre: land which is the most valuable in the province of Manitoba, and which without any doubt, is worth to-day from \$50 to \$60 an acre. It is not too much to ask these men, even at this late date, to do justice to the Indians? My hon. friend stated that about half of this land was sold by public auction. That, of course, is in line with many other statements made by the hon. gentleman; it is not quite in accordance with the facts. Only about 15,000 acres out of 48,000 were sold by public auction. And how were they sold? The auction sale was manipulated just as skillfully as the