

where it is utterly impossible for them to make a living, while we had these magnificent acres. These people would have been delighted to have had an opportunity to buy these lands and would have been willing to pay from \$15 to \$20 an acre for them on a ten year purchase. Then we would have had a settlement adjacent to the town of Selkirk which would have been a source of wealth to the town and would have converted that district into a perfect garden, and the land would have been put into the hands of settlers, and not as now into the hands of speculators. I stated at the opening of my remarks that the settlers were paying for these lands eight or ten times what the speculators were paying. I want to make good that statement before I take my seat. I have in my hand a petition to myself from some of these Ruthenians and Polanders, which reads as follows:

Winnipeg, Manitoba, January 14, 1909.

Dear Sir,—We, farmers of your constituency, find that Mr. W. Frank bought off the Dominion government a piece of land north of East Selkirk in the province of Manitoba, for which he paid the sum of \$3 to \$5 per acre. This same Mr. Frank has sold this same land to us for from \$40 to \$75 per acre.

We are also informed that he bought from the same government, an Indian reservation or a part thereof, for which he has been asking the sum of \$40 per acre. Now, Mr. Bradbury, as our representative for the constituency of Selkirk, in which the above named lands are situated, we are asking if it is in your power to protect us in this matter.

We are willing and anxious to purchase this land at a fair valuation but consider Mr. Frank's prices exorbitant.

We understand that the transaction between the government and Mr. Frank was a secret one and the settlers in the locality had not an opportunity of making a bid for them.

We inclose a sample of agreements in regard to this matter, and also pen other details in regard to same.

They give me the names of the different men, the lands they bought, and the prices they paid, and I am going to place some of them on record. Theodore Tiekot bought 10 acres at \$50 per acre; Kaprijan Wawrynice, 10 acres; Wisniowski, 10 acres; Hornecki, 10 acres; Stephen Kolba, 10 acres; Myuak, 10 acres; Zieriezni, 10 acres; Stephen Bubyk, 10 acres.

Here are thirteen cases in which the poor settlers on account of the government's neglect, and perhaps worse, had to pay from \$40 to \$60 an acre for a part of the same land, or ten times what this wise government made it possible for the land speculator to get nearly 30,000 acres of these lands at. Is there any hon. gentleman on that side of the House who would try to justify a transaction of that kind. What a

grand opportunity this government had there of carrying out its avowed policy of land for the settler and not for the speculators—48,000 acres of the best land in Manitoba lying within 25 miles of Winnipeg, and 2,000 or 3,000 good settlers land hungry, most of these living on lands west of Gimili, and on land utterly unfit for agricultural purposes. These are among the best settlers in that province to-day. They have demonstrated the fact that they are thrifty, hard working, honest people, and it is an outrage that they should have been allowed to remain on that land when the government had the opportunity of giving them these 48,000 acres at a fair honest price. These men would have bought these lands and paid the government three times what the government got from the speculators, and we would have had adjacent to the town of Selkirk one of the best settlements in Manitoba occupied by people who would have made a garden of that section, and made it a source of wealth to that town. Instead of this, the government, which boasted that its policy was to protect the poor man, looking after the interests of the settler, we find it taking great care to look after the interests of the big men, and speculators, and allowing the poor settlers to look after themselves.

I have taken up a good deal of the time of this House, and if I had nothing more than what I have stated I would feel that I had made a case strong enough to convince any man in this House and country. But I hold in my hand written declarations which will confirm everything I have said, and which are the bases of the case I have placed on record. Here is the testimony of Wm. Asham:

Dominion of Canada,
Province of Manitoba.

To wit:

In the matter of St. Peter's Indian reserve and of the sale and disposal of the Indian lands in said reserve.

I, William Asham, of the Parish of St. Peters, in the province of Manitoba, do solemnly declare that:

I am a member of St. Peter's band and an ex-chief, that I am thoroughly familiar with the manner in which the Indians in general have been treated regarding the sale of lands allotted to them under the surrender of the reserve effected the 24th day of September, 1907.

In the first place I declare, that the chief on different occasions previous to the surrender stated publicly, that he would not agree to the surrender of the reserve under any consideration. This subject was discussed on several occasions by the chief before the band. He also stated that he was offered in consideration of him agreeing to the surrender, enough to make him well-off as long as he lived, and that he could be a gentleman for the rest of his natural life, but he would not agree to do that because it was not only he