

# House of Commons Debates

SECOND SESSION—ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

## SPEECH

OF

MR. GEO. H. BRADBURY

ON THE

## SURRENDER OF ST. PETER'S INDIAN RESERVE, SELKIRK

OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1910.

Mr. G. H. BRADBURY (Selkirk). Mr. Speaker, before you leave the Chair, I desire to call the attention of the House to a matter of very serious importance, a matter that affects the honour of this country, regarding a transaction that ranks, in my mind, high amongst the meanest ever committed by this government. It was an outrage against everything that was fair, against everything that was decent as between the government of the day and its ward, the poor unfortunate Indian who, this country believes, is watched over, guided and protected by the government. The manner in which this government has discharged its sacred trust towards the wards of the people is well exemplified by the way in which it manipulated and secured the surrender of the St. Peter's Indian reserve at Selkirk, which happens to be in my county. Just about a year ago I called the attention of the minister responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the Indian Department (Mr. Oliver) to the scandalous proceedings of the land speculators in relation to this surrender.

I urged the minister at that time to make a searching investigation with the view of protecting the wards of the people and punishing those whom the Indians were alleging to have done them such a grievous wrong. But at that time the minister did not seem to realize that there was anything to investigate, and he practically told me that the Indian had made his own bargain and must abide by it. Now, that the House and the country may know something of this transaction, I purpose placing on record the terms of the surrender, or that part of the surrender that relates to the land which this government secured and divided up with their friends. I hold in my hand a memorandum submitted to the hon. the minister responsible for the Indian Department, by his deputy, Mr. Frank Pedley. This memorandum is dated just about one month after the surrender took place. It is dated at Ottawa, October 26, 1907, and reads as follows:

Mr. OLIVER. Pursuant to your instructions, I left Ottawa on the 17th ult. and reached Winnipeg on the 19th ult. to take

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up with the St. Peter's band of Indians, near Selkirk, the question of the surrender of their reserve at that place. When this reserve, consisting of about 55,000 acres, was set aside in 1871, provision was made that the rights of the parties holding lands within the boundaries of the reserve should be protected, and as a result of this some 5,000 acres have been patented to parties other than Indians. In order to settle the remaining outstanding claims Chief Justice Howell of Manitoba was appointed a commissioner in November, 1906, for this purpose, and from several interviews with him I judge that there would be from 1,500 to 2,000 acres still to be patented, thus leaving as belonging to the reserve proper about 48,000 acres.

This was the area that I dealt with in my negotiations with the Indians for a surrender.

Upon such terms as the government of Canada may deem most conducive to our welfare and that of our people, and upon the further condition that all moneys received from the sale thereof shall, after deducting the usual proportion, for expenses of management, be paid as follows, namely: one-half of said sum remaining to be paid to us the year following the receipt of same by the government after sale of said lands, the balance of said proceeds of sale to be funded for our benefit and the interest to be paid to us annually. At each payment as aforesaid the sum so paid shall be divided so that the chief shall receive each year the sum of \$6 more than that to which the other individual members of the band shall be entitled. And upon the further conditions that out of the said St. Peter's reserve now surrendered there shall be granted an area not exceeding 21,000 acres to the members of the band as follows: to the chief 180 acres, to the ex-chief and each councillor 120 acres, and to the other members of the band in the proportion of about 80 acres to each head of a family of five; grants to be made also in similar proportions to widows and to unmarried men and women over 21 years of age. In addition to the said 21,000 acres above mentioned there shall be set aside 3,000 acres of hay land for the members of the band having land in the present reserve. The department shall advance at the time of the surrender the sum of \$5,000 to be repaid out of the first moneys received from the sale of the lands.

It will be seen that by this surrender the government secured 48,000 acres of land. This land was all situated within a radius of 25 or 26 miles of the city of Winnipeg. The Red river passes right through the centre of the reserve; the banks on each side of the river were high, making this an ideal area of farming land. I have no hesitation in saying that 85 per cent of this land is first-class, and was the best land to be found in the province of Manitoba. This government that boasts in this House, and out of it, that its policy is: the land for the settler, and not for the speculator; with this boast still warm on its lips, and still ringing in the ears of the people of this country lends itself to this scandalous transaction by which nearly 35,000 acres out of the 48,000 acres

passed into the hands of a few of its political friends for less than one-third of its actual value. And now, the poor settler that this government has been so much exercised about, that this government has proclaimed to the country that it is protecting and keeping the lands for; these poor settlers are forced to go to these landed gentry, the friends of the government, who obtained the land for a mere pittance, and pay, not twice as much, not three times as much, not five times as much as these gentlemen paid for the lands to the Indians, and to the government, but the settlers are actually paying to-day eight and ten times as much for an acre of these lands as the government allowed these speculators and party heelers to secure it for. This is the way this western policy of the government works out. That the House may understand the conditions I intend to lay before it facts which will show how this trick was worked. As the surrender I have read to the House indicates, the head of each Indian family of five was to have the right of disposing of 80 acres of these lands; the head of a family of six would have 96 acres; the head of a family of seven would have 112 acres. It will be seen that the heads of these Indian families, poor, ignorant Indians that never owned an acre of land in their lives before, were made competent by this government to hold and transfer, and sell lands worth in the vicinity of half a million dollars. A fair average of the holdings of these Indians was not less than from \$1,200 to \$1,500, and I am satisfied in view of the evidence that I will endeavour to lay before this House, that when the government were giving these lands to the Indians, they knew that these lands would simply pass from the Indians to the white men, and that the deal was arranged for. In addition to the 21,000 acres that were allotted to the Indians, and the 2,000 or 3,000 acres that were set aside for the hay lands, the government were supposed to auction the balance of the land, and some 15,000 acres were sold at public auction. Now, Mr. Speaker, some time ago I drew the attention of the minister to the fact that great dissatisfaction prevailed among the Indians over the manner in which these lands had been handled, and the manner in which the surrender had been secured. The Indians claimed that they had been practically robbed of their lands by a few Grit party agents, and land speculators under the very nose of the Indian agent, who seemed to be looking after the interests of the speculator more than he was looking after the interests of the Indian whom he neglected entirely. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the Indian agent was in the market himself, and was purchasing these lands with the other speculators. Now, I do not want to

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weary the House, but this matter is of such importance to myself, and to the district I represent that I feel I must place before the House some letters and declarations from some of the Indians showing of what they complain. At the time I was urging the minister to investigate, I am satisfied the minister should have known if he did not know that there was a serious wrong done to that band of Indians.

The first letter I will read is as follows:

St. Peter's, May 2, 1909.

Geo. H. Bradbury, M. P., Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—The principal originators of the ruination of the St. Peter's reserve are the chief and councillors. They publicly declared repeatedly before the band, that they would never surrender the land under any consideration. But of a sudden they kept mute, and when the matter was brought before the band, at the meeting September 23, the chief stood to a man for a surrender. The chief received 199 acres of land and ten dollars cash; each councillor received 140 acres of land and six dollars cash; ordinary Indians received 16 acres of land, and four dollars and thirty cents cash (\$4.30). You will see the vast difference. Why should this be? No sooner was the surrender made than the chief and councillors were the first parties that sold their land. After selling their land they began to influence their people to sell their land, telling them that until their patents were issued no proper bargain could be made. But they were only getting advances on land until patent came, but it is far from being the case; the majority of those poor Indians didn't even see the sight of their patents.

True, we have an Indian agent. As far as my judgment goes, and what I honestly think, he is more an agent for the white man than he is for the Indian; what protection can we expect from such a man as Indian agent, as one who took a mean advantage of a poor treaty woman, a widow at that, who had land near the town of Selkirk. This same Indian agent bought this land from this poor woman for a very small sum of money to the acre. This sale of land was made prior to the time of the issuing of patents. I was wondering would that sale be considered legal? An Indian agent, while in office, to buy land from a treaty person, is in my mind illegal.

There is another matter I desire to point out clearly, the chief and councillors offices were terminated on the 4th day of July, 1908. Prior to the time of that date, we requested the government to grant us an election, at that date our request was unsuccessful; from that time the matter was postponed indefinitely. At last we were told that there is no law for our elections. Strange to say it was always interpreted as law by government officials, whenever holding an election it was always declared as law, and the term three years, up to the date of the surrender.

Mr. Pedley, during the meeting, when asked whether the surrender would interfere with our elections, he told us very frankly, just the words he used: No! he said that the matter rests with the band and the law. It is most astonishing to us all, when we are now informed that there is no law for our election: apart from law, if it was only a privile-

ge, as they claim, we have had that privilege for many years in the past, and it should be upheld and maintained. I am fully aware, unquestionably, that it was the only protection we have had in the past, the term of those elected being three years. The band are entirely ignored and know nothing at all the actions of the chief and councillors, in fact they are more for white men than what they are for their fellow Indians who elected them, in fact they are entirely unfit for the position, and do not in any way represent the opinions of the band.

This letter is signed by Wm. Asham, ex-chief of the St. Peter's band, one of the most intelligent Indians I ever met, a man who would average well with the average white man in this House to-day. You will understand, Mr. Speaker, before I conclude my remarks, what this man meant by speaking of the chief and council as he has done. The chief and council, as I stated on the floor of this House before, were bribed to betray their band. I beg to read part of another letter.

St. Peter's, Gilolo P.O.,  
May 12, 1909.

Hon. Geo. Bradbury, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa.

Sir,—When Mr. Tracy knew that the Indians of St. Peter's band were going to be permitted to sell so much land from the Indian Department, he made some dealings with them, with hay; he would ask them to put up hay for him, so many tons for him to put up in stacks, and pay them in advance of \$2 per ton, and make them sign some paper; the Indian did not know what he had signed. This was power of attorney, and when the winter came the Indian would come and tell him the hay was ready and he would tell them that he would not need the hay, but have enough; you had better buy it back, and the Indian would take it back without proper understanding, and afterwards he charges them \$8 per ton and charge everything up. He registered these papers—soon comes up a very large amount, sometimes \$100 and more—this is the list I sent to you to see, and when the land was sold he sent these amounts to the land buyers and stopped their money and then the Indian could not draw his money although we, the chief and council, know that this is not right, and though we laid this matter before Indian agent M. Lewis, he would not help us, but he would say let the Indian Department know, and we know that the Indian agent helps the land buyers rather than help us.

Most of the Indians are dissatisfied with the selling of their land. I was trying to stop the sale of land when it was commenced, but the land buyers said they wanted to buy the land in a risk.

This letter is signed by W. H. Prince, one of the councillors. I now wish to read a petition which was sent to me, addressed to myself:

St. Peter's November 1, 1908.

Geo. H. Bradbury, M.P.,  
Sir,—The undersigned beg to lay before you their following grievances. The surrender of

the St. Peter's reserve was made on the 24th of September, 1907. A few days after the surrender was made, land buyers came and bought land, first of all buying from the chief and council. After this was done, then they were hired to influence their people to sell land, telling them until such time the issuing of patents, a proper bargain could not be made, hence the land was sold, and the majority of Indians never made an application for their patents, however, the patents were issued, the Indians only heard of the same, never even having the privilege of seeing their patents.

The Indians were entirely ignorant as to the nature of the documents they sign when selling land, for the reason no proper interpretation given at the time of sale or any other time, and that is the reason why there is so much complaint.

There is another matter which we think would be necessary to be understood properly. There were application forms at the Indian office and each head of a family had to make an application in person for his or her patent, this was never done with but a few exceptions, when issuing of patents, there were another kind of forms at the Indian office which had to be signed by the Indians before receiving their patents. This was never done, with but a few exceptions.

I want to say that I asked for a return of those forms of prepared receipts for patents signed by the Indians. I have no hesitation in saying that I believe 90 per cent of those receipts were forgeries, that they were never signed by the Indians knowingly, and that the Indians did not know they had been signed. The petition goes on:

With regard to allotment of land, the chief received 196 acres individually. Each individual received 136 acres. An ordinary Indian received 16 acres, besides the chief and councillors received more money than the ordinary Indian.

The land buyers were the parties that selected the choice land, the Indians were simply onlookers. That is the treatment the Indians received from their so-called chief and council.

Some instances the Indians were receiving less than \$2 per acre, some received \$2.50, some \$3 and some \$4 and \$5 to the acre, and some are entirely ignorant as to what sum they received.

We are all fully aware that our land was fully worth at least from \$15 to \$30 per acre.

Trusting that you will be able to understand the nature of our grievances, humbly requesting that you will use your influence to bring the matter before the House, if possible.

Your petitioners will ever pray.

Signed,

JOHN THOMAS STEVENSON,  
THOMAS DANIELS,  
FREDERICK CAVIRON, SR.,  
JAMES STEVENSON, JR.,  
GEORGE HODGSON,  
PETER STEVENSON,  
JOHN HARPER,  
HENRY COOK.

I have a declaration here which I wish to read to this House made by a man over 90 years old. He came to me himself in Selkirk, and I had an opportunity of talking to him after he had sworn to this declaration:

#### TESTIMONY.

Dominion of Canada,  
Province of Manitoba.

To wit:

Charles Trindle.

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

I, Charles Trindle, of the parish of St. Peters, in the province of Manitoba, do solemnly declare that:

Sometime during the month of January, 1908, hearing that parties were buying the Indian lands at Selkirk, I visited Selkirk and approached one of the men who were buying these lands. He refused to buy my land stating that I was too old to deal with. I then went to the Indian office at Selkirk and there saw the Indian agent, J. O. Lewis. There were present at the time in the room the chief, William Prince, and W. D. Harper, councillor, W. H. Prince and James Williams, also councillors. I told these men that the party who was buying land, I believe him to be William Frank, had refused to buy my land. The chief then asked me why and I told him that Frank said I was too old. The Indian agent, J. O. Lewis, then said, I will buy your land, at the same time saying, what do you want for your land? I said \$10 per acre. The Indian agent said I will take the land and pay you at the rate of \$6 per month. In this way you will have a monthly allowance coming for a long time which will help to keep you. It was now dinner time. The Indian agent gave me 25 cents to get my dinner, telling me to come back after dinner when he would give me my first instalment of \$6. I came back after dinner, and the same parties were in the office as were there when Mr. Lewis said he would take my land. Councillor James Williams acted as interpreter and explained all this matter to me. After the above explanation, Mr. Lewis, the agent, gave me an order on William Robinson's store for \$6. This was, as I understood, the first monthly payment on my land. I took this order to the store and received \$6 in cash. As far as I know I was not asked by the agent to sign any paper or any receipt for the order he gave me. I never signed by my mark or any other way to my knowledge any agreement to sell my land to the agent, neither did I ever sign any application for my patent, nor did I ever sign any receipt for my patent. Nor did I at any time ever see my patent. I now feel that I have been fooled by the agent in the presence of the chief and councillors. A month later I came back to my agent for my second payment of \$6. He again gave me an order on the same store as the first, namely, William Robinson. I got the cash for this order at the store. A month after this I again called at the Indian office, and received an order or a paper, this time to George Tracy, of Selkirk. On presenting this to Tracy he gave me a cheque for \$6 where I



cashied it. On receipt of this cheque from Tracy I touched a pen. There was a paper lying on the desk. It was not read to me, nor do I know the contents. I do not understand English. I am an old man, nearly ninety years of age. There was nobody present to interpret, consequently I did not know the contents of any paper which Tracy may have signed when I touched the pen. This was the only time I was ever asked to touch the pen or sign any paper in connection with the sale of my land. If my name has been signed, or my mark placed on any other documents, it has not been done by me. At that time Tracy told me that from then on he would make the monthly payments, and for me to come to him every month. This I did, and received from George Tracy cheques for \$6 each month for 18 months in all, not including the two \$6 orders I had received from the agent to the store. Including these orders I received a total of twenty orders or cheques for \$6 each a total of \$120 for my property, which should have been 32 acres that I should have received from the government, 16 acres for myself, and 16 acres for my wife, and at \$10 an acre the price agreed upon by the agent would be \$320. This at \$6 per month would have entitled me to receive monthly payments for 53 months instead of 20 months which is all I received from the agent and Tracy, a total of \$120. When Tracy gave me my last cheque in August, or maybe a month before, he did not tell me that this was my last payment, but the next month when I went for my cheque, he told me then that I had received all the money that was coming to me. This was a great surprise to me, as I had expected my payments to continue for a long time. I now find that I only received less than \$4 per acre instead of \$10 per acre that J. C. Lewis, Indian agent had agreed to give me.

I now feel that the Indian agent has not only not protected me but he has deceived me so that I have lost my home.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canadian Evidence Act.

His  
CHARLES X TRINDLE.  
Mark

Declared before me at the Town of Selkirk, in the Province of Manitoba, this 21st day of December, 1909.

C. Finkelman,  
Commissioner.

In support of that affidavit I hold in my hand an account rendered by Mr. George Tracy, which appears in a return ordered by this House. In the account there is the question of this very land which this man speaks of. Mr. Tracy has an account against Trindle, and in that account he credits Mr. Lewis, the Indian agent, with having made the first three payments on this land. I do not think the hon. minister can ask any further evidence to prove that his Indian agent was a party to this transaction. We have the declaration of

the old man himself, and Lewis's colleague, George Tracy, in the account he rendered, admits right on the face of the account that Lewis made the first three payments himself to this Indian. Just before leaving this matter, I want to say that is one account out of eighty-six which this man Tracy had against the Indian. He managed to have dealings with these men after he realized that they were going to be possessed of valuable land, and that these lands would be at their disposal. His accounts aggregated something like \$13,000, and I have no hesitation in saying that for 25 to 50 per cent of this amount the Indians received no actual value.

Before I take my seat I think I will be able to satisfy the minister that this statement is absolutely correct. This man only charges Trindle with having received \$160, but he received it in six payments according to Tracy. An old man of 90 years of age admits that he got twenty payments of \$6 a month, and this man charges him at the very beginning of the account with a \$35 cheque issued to Captain William Robinson's store. I am satisfied this man never received that cheque, and all through this man's accounts the same story is told. The Indians have been wronged right under the eyes of the Indian agent, and I am afraid with the assistance and connivance of the Indian agent. Now, I have here an affidavit from a poor Indian woman from whom this agent bought land in the first place, and I will read it:

#### TESTIMONY.

Dominion of Canada,  
Province of Manitoba,  
To wit:

Flora Bella Wesley.

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

I, Flora Bella Wesley, widow, of the parish of St. Peter's, in the province of Manitoba, do solemnly declare:

That I am a member of the St. Peter's band of Indians, and in the matter of my allotment of land under the terms of the surrender effected September 24, 1907, I was entitled to 16 acres of land, 16 acres each to my two boys, and 16 acres to my daughter, 64 acres in all.

A few months after the surrender, and before the proper allotments were made, I sold to J. O. Lewis, Indian agent at Selkirk, 32 acres of my land situated inside the limits of the town of Selkirk for the sum of \$5 per acre, part of which I had to receive in cash and part in goods, but I am quite unable to say what amount I received on this sale.

I also made a sale to William Frank of 16 acres, and for which I was to receive \$125, but only received from him the sum of \$35 in all, \$23 in cash, and goods from the store to the value of \$12. The balance of \$90 Mr. Frank informed me he could not pay me as George Tracy had claimed it for debt.

William Frank informed me that he had purchased all my land, 32 acres in all, which I disputed, and told him I only sold him 16 acres, that the other 16 acres I did not intend to sell, as I required it for myself. I further declare that I never made application for my patent, never saw my patent, and never signed a receipt for my patent.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.

FLORA BELLA WESLEY.

X

Her mark.

Declared before me at the town of Selkirk, in the province of Manitoba, this 20th day of January, 1916.

C. R. SHALLMAN.

Sir, I have thirty or forty similar declarations sent to me from these people, and they all verify the statement that has been made by the Indians in their letters. These declarations ought to open the eyes of the minister, because I am sure that some of them must have come to his attention long before they came into my hands. I want to emphasize this fact, that in face of the declaration made by Flora Wesley, and the declaration made by Charles Trindie, the minister can have no further doubt as to the charge that was made that the Indian agent, J. O. Lewis, was buying this land in collusion with other land buyers. In discussing this matter some time ago in this House, I endeavoured to show that the surrender had entailed great hardships upon the poor ignorant Indians, who now allege that the transaction was a trick and a disgrace to the government responsible for it. I urged the minister then to institute an investigation with a view of protecting the Indians against the unscrupulous methods employed by these speculators who, through the assistance of the government, had been able to secure these lands for less than one-third of their actual value. But the minister practically said that there was nothing to investigate. But he did admit that the surrender contained some peculiar conditions, and his words are to be found in volume I of last year's 'Hansard,' page 1019:

The surrender contained many peculiar terms. I do not suppose there ever was a surrender like it before, and I fervently hope there will never be one like it again.

Sir, well might the minister hope that no such disgraceful transaction might ever again take place under his department. He proceeds to say:

One of the terms of the surrender was that the Indians should be given title to some part of the reserve. It was a remarkable condition, but I place it before the House as an evidence of how far the department is willing to go in order to meet the Indians, and in

order that the land may be turned to beneficial use.

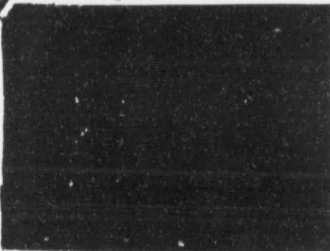
In justification of giving the land to the Indians, the minister says:

The Indian would only sign the surrender of the reserve as a whole when he got this particular piece of land as his very own to do with as he pleased, and when he got it as his very own we had no control over him as an Indian Department or as a government. He could dispose of it as he pleased.

Sir, I submit that that is an astounding proposition for the guardians of the wards of the people of this country to make, that because the poor, ignorant, irresponsible Indian made a bargain, or made a condition, by which he expected to get land worth half a million of money, before he would agree to sign the surrender, and that the government was justified in giving these men this great reservation to dissipate, to throw away, and to hand over to their political friends. The minister admits the peculiar terms contained in the surrender, referring no doubt to the unprecedented act of giving to these Indians this large area of land, land worth, as I said a moment ago, at least half a million dollars, and then leaving them entirely unprotected. This is, to my mind, the most serious charge that can be brought against the government, the fact that in giving the Indians this land, the government removed all protection from them, handed them over into the hands of speculators, who were watching their opportunity to pounce upon them, and take these valuable lands from them. This was practically handing the land over into the hands of a few men that this whole transaction was apparently arranged for. I have no hesitation in saying, with the evidence I have before me, whether the minister is conscious of the fact or not, that this whole transaction was engineered and arranged so that this magnificent area of land should drop into the hands of three or four men who have actually got these lands. To prove the correctness of the contention that the government anticipated that these lands would eventually pass into the hands of the whites who were hovering around watching their opportunity, I shall quote part of a letter from the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs to the Hon. Frank Oliver. The letter is dated October 26, 1907, a short time after the surrender was completed. He says:

The placing in the market of the land to be sold, namely, 24,000 acres will afford an opportunity long looked for of having the land available for farming and other purposes, and the issuing of patents to individual Indians will ultimately, I believe, result in a considerable portion, if not all, of the land granted to them passing into the hands of the whites.

The statement that there are 24,000 acres is about as correct as every other statement that gentleman has made in regard to this transaction, because 15,000 acres only and not 24,000 were sold. This is from the man who negotiated the treaty under the instruction of his minister responsible for the affairs of the Indian Department. I claim that nothing more is needed to show that the government was responsible for this outrageous surrender, knew that the Indians would sell their lands to the few speculators then on the ground ready to bargain for them, and that under the protection of the government which had warned the general public off by a letter written by Mr. Pedley to the Indian Agent, which I shall read in order that the House may have some conception of the ingenuity of the men who were carrying out this surrender. After the surrender was secured a large number of people in Selkirk who realized the great value of these lands were anxious to secure portions of that reserve, and as soon as they began to negotiate with the Indians a letter arrived from Ottawa to the following effect:



Almost immediately on receipt of this letter the Indian Agent heard of his instructions and made known the contents of this letter wide and far. He went into the Indian reserve and warned every Indian that he had nothing to sell until his patent came. In the town of Selkirk almost every man who approached him—I sent men to approach him myself to find out—they were told by the Indian Agent that the Indians had nothing to sell until the land was surveyed and the patents issued. That was the proper course, and if the government had adhered to the spirit of that letter I would not be standing in my place exposing what I believe to be one of the meanest transactions that has taken place under this government during the fourteen years it has been in office. What occurred? As soon as it became known that the Indian had nothing to sell until his patent issued, the average citizen, Liberal and Conservative alike, hung back, refused to give the Indian a dollar on his land, refused to nego-

tiate with him; knowing the Indian nature as well as they did they did not want to deal with them all except four men. One of these was William Frank, whom I have named in this House before, a large real estate dealer in Winnipeg, a supporter of the present government, who came to Ottawa himself and interviewed somebody here, I do not know whom. I met that gentleman myself on his return at Beausejour, fifteen miles east of Selkirk, and we rode in the train together. He then said to me: I am going to buy the Indian lands, I am going to take the chance, if you like to come in with me, it is all right, it is quite safe. He gave me the tip; I did not take it. He said he had been to Ottawa. I asked him whom he had seen; he did not tell me, but the result was, as is very evident from what has since transpired, that that man had the tip from the proper source. He immediately started to work to negotiate with the poor Indian to buy these lands, he and three others. One of these was Fred Heap, a lawyer in Selkirk, a man who drew \$1,800 in fees in connection with this very surrender. Another was George Tracy, a drayman in Selkirk, who conducted one of the most scandalous transactions ever perpetrated in the west in connection with these Indians. Another was a man named Funk, an American. These four men negotiated and dealt with these Indians and bought out of 21,000 acres that the Indians had, about 18,000.

How did they conduct these negotiations? The very first move these men made was to secure the co-operation of the chief and councillors. They bought the chief and the councillors' land, and in addition they bought the chief and the councillors to assist them in carrying out the negotiations with the rest of the Indians, in bringing the Indians to them, and in bargaining with them for the balance of the land. They caused these councillors and the chief to circulate a rumour all through the reserve in conformity with the letter I have read to the House that the Indians had nothing to sell until his patent came, but that these patriotic gentlemen were just going to advance them a little money until their patents came. They said to them: Your land is worth about \$15 or \$20 an acre, but you will get an advance of \$4 or \$5 an acre now, and when your patents come we will give you the balance of the money. That is the way these poor people were misled. Then they brought the Indians up to Selkirk and they purchased their lands and made their own bargains. That the whole transaction was arranged for a few party favourites who got these lands, I think, is evidenced, first, by the fact that the surrender was secured at the request of Mr. S. J. Jackson, then member for the county of Selkirk, a supporter of the pre-

sent government. There was no other demand, there was no petition from any source asking that the surrender be secured. The only man who is on record, according to the minister himself, as having requested the surrender is Mr. S. J. Jackson. This surrender, Mr. Speaker, was secured right on the eve of a general election. The money that was paid out for these lands was circulating through that constituency just in the middle of my campaign. The Indian agent, who, I have proven to this House, was recreant to his trust as a government official, was an active organizer for my opponent, Mr. S. J. Jackson. He organized the whole eastern part of the constituency against me, and, more than that, he seemed to have abundance of money, so much so, that I regret to say, that one of my committees saw fit to have him arrested two days before the election for paying out money in the town of Beausejour. The speculators taking advantage of the ignorance of the Indians, 23,000 acres of land were disposed of without let or hindrance, without the guidance or advice of the Indian Department. I want it to be remembered, Mr. Speaker, that every one of these Indians had been raised and brought up to lean and to look upon the Indian Department as their guide and adviser. But this government gives them this valuable land, and then withdraws all its protection, support and guidance. And, in addition to this, we have the letter that was written by the deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, Mr. Pedley, the man who negotiated this surrender, warning the public that no transactions of any kind would be recognized, practically telling the public to stand off, and then we have these four men stepping in and buying these lands at whatever they could get them for, on whatever terms and on whatever conditions. These facts justify me in saying that this whole transaction was engineered from the very beginning for the benefit of the few men who secured these valuable lands from the government. Admitting for the sake of argument that the minister's contention was right—which I do not admit—that the Indian refused to sign the surrender unless he got this land to do as he pleased with it, it would be no justification for the government withdrawing its protection from its wards and allowing them to be imposed upon and practically despoiled of the valuable lands that the government had given them. The government, responsible for this surrender, knew the Indian nature, knew that he could not long resist the allurements of a little money, and that this land would soon fall into the hands of a few land sharks who were ready to pounce upon the unsuspecting Indian. Just as soon as the government removed all these restrictions and said that the In-

dian could dispose of his land to whom he pleased and for what he pleased, these favoured people, this quartette of patriots, got to work and began making bargains to secure the lands under the best conditions they could. But, unfortunately for the minister, the facts do not bear out what he stated about the Indians refusing to sign the surrender. I have it from reliable Indians that there was no demand from the band, as a band, that the protection of the department should not be provided for in the surrender. I am told that when Mr. Pedley read the clause already placed in the surrender which provided that an official of the department should supervise all sales made by the Indians, it was objected to by a few Indians, but not by the band. It was not put to the vote, and neither the chief nor one of his councillors objected to the clause being in the surrender. But worst of all, I am informed, that the deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, the man representing this government, who is the guardian of the wards of this country, did not endeavour in any way to explain to these

was done.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in proof of this contention I have here among the letters which were brought down by the minister himself, a letter signed by one of the Indian councillors which reads:

St. Peters, September 21, 1909.

Hon Mr. Oliver,—All our Indians are dissatisfied, and are still looking for help from the Indian department, and we the chief and councillors are dissatisfied. For when the surrender was made, before Mr. Frank Pedley, the Indians were asked if they would allow the government to appoint one of their officials to make bargains for them, some Indians said 'No, we can make our own bargains.' But not one of the councillors or the chief, because we want the government to help us, because we, the Indians are like children.

W. H. PRINCE.

Is there any other evidence I could give to the House which would be half as conclusive as this, showing that there was no demand made by the Indians as a band,

that the protection should be removed, and that the statement made by the minister in this House was entirely misleading when he said that was the only condition on which he could obtain the surrender of St. Peter's Indian reserve. These Indians declared, as dozens have told me privately, that there was no demand made by the band that the Indian Department should not stand between them and the white man. The Indian knew that he was not capable of handling such valuable possessions, and the duty of the department was after it had given these people these lands, (which I contend was a crime in the first place) the manifest duty of the Indian Department was to see that the Indians were not robbed by a few hungry land sharks. I submit that that is strong evidence to show that the removal of the protective clause in the surrender was not made a condition of the surrender by the band, but that this clause was struck out simply at the bidding of a few irresponsible Indians who were no doubt in the pay of those who did not want any power to interfere between them and their intended victims, the Indians. As I pointed out, there was no effort made by the deputy Superintendent General—who was responsible for this surrender, and who I believe is responsible for this whole transaction—to retain the protective provision in the surrender. It would almost seem there was an understanding of some kind between these men and the men who acquired these lands. The more I see and hear of this transaction the more I am satisfied that the whole thing was arranged so that these lands should pass into the hands of the few men who got them, and a scheme was devised, first, to give them to the Indian, and then to make it impossible for the public to interfere, and these four men were allowed and assisted by the Indian agent to acquire these lands on their own terms and conditions from the poor unfortunate Indians. Well, Mr. Speaker, when the minister was before the committee some time ago I again called his attention to the scandalous conduct of the land speculators, and also to the protests that were entered by the Indians against the whole transaction. I then, two months ago, pressed for an investigation, but the minister flatly refused. However, I learned a few days after that he had despatched his law clerk from the Indian Department with instructions to make a secret or private investigation. On learning this I quite naturally visited the department to ascertain if this were true. I could not believe it possible, in face of what the minister said to me across the floor of the House, that he would have taken action without at least having given me some little notice, knowing the interest I was taking

in the matter. Well, Sir, after visiting the department, and asking a question from one or two of the officials, these men simply shook their heads; they did not know anything about it. When I put the question straight to them: where is Mr. Williams, the answer was; he is away on duty, and when I asked: has he gone to Selkirk, the answer was: I do not know, you will have to see the deputy. I did not see the deputy, I felt it was no use under the circumstances, but the deputy was seen, and the deputy refused to give any information. But I knew that this man had gone to Selkirk and I went to Selkirk myself and I found that the minister had sent Mr. Williams there and that he was making a private investigation. There was no attempt to make a public investigation, no attempt to arrive at the truth regarding these scandalous transactions. What this man was evidently doing—as is borne out by the report which he makes—was simply seeking to get evidence to combat the statements made by me on the floor of the House, and the statements made by the Indians in the letters and petitions sent to the minister. In every page of that report which this law clerk brings down he shows his utter inability to cope with the conditions existing around Selkirk. You might as well send that gentleman to Hong Kong to inquire into Chinese conditions, and expect a proper report, as to send an innocent young man like him in among the land sharks that secured this land. When I went into Selkirk where did I find him? I found him with the Indian agent, the man who had been a party to this transaction; I found him with these land dealers, the men who had been parties to the scandals complained of. Is it any wonder that his report bears the complexion it does. What do you find in this report? You find the Mr. John Smith sold so many acres of land to George Tracy, and according to George Tracy's books he received payment in full. That is the way he wipes out every one of these charges; he goes according to their books. I have no hesitation in saying, Sir, from my place in the House, that as to a large number of these amounts that are charged up to these poor unfortunate Indians they never saw one dollar of the money. Of course, the books were all right as a matter of book-keeping—these men are good book-keepers as results show.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in the course of the criticisms that were made in the House on a previous occasion, the minister stated that he had secured a number of surrenders from different reserves throughout the country, and that in every case the land had been duly advertised and put up to auction. At that time I took exception to that statement of the minister, and in the

face of this transaction I was astonished that the hon. gentleman would make such a statement. Surely this transaction must have escaped his memory at that moment, or he could not have made the statement he did. Here was St. Peter's Indian reserve, where they had secured by surrender 48,000 acres of these lands, 21,000 acres of which they immediately gave to the Indians, and through the Indians to their white friends, and out of the balance some 15,000 acres, was sold at public auction. As I have stated, while the surrender called for 21,000 acres, the hon. minister, I presume, knows that it took 23,000 acres to satisfy the Indian claim; and this land was practically handed over by the government, through the instrumentality of the poor ignorant Indians, to a few white men, including one or two party heeled, for less than one-third of its actual value. Now, Mr. Speaker, when speaking before in this House, I made the statement that the chief and council were bribed to betray their band. That is a serious charge to make. The hon. minister took strong exception to it at that time; but he ingeniously endeavoured to place Chief Justice Howell as a kind of buffer between the department and this charge, and to make it appear that if I made a charge of bribery I was making it against him. Now, while I frankly admit that the word bribery is not a pleasant word, and ought not to be used by any hon. member except where it is entirely justified, I believe that before I take my seat I shall have satisfied the hon. minister that I was entirely justified in using that expression regarding this scandalous transaction. In order that we may know exactly how this transaction was conducted, it will be necessary for me to review for a short time the negotiations which took place for the surrender. When Chief Justice Howell went to Selkirk to open the negotiations with the Indians with the view of securing the surrender of the reserve, the chief and councillors would not listen to any proposition of that kind. In fact, they refused to discuss the matter with him. The chief called meetings of the band, and, after explaining to the Indians what Chief Justice Howell was suggesting, he pledged himself and the councillors to the band on three different occasions, that under no consideration, would they agree to surrender the reserve. So it was impossible for the Chief Justice to make any headway in securing the surrender. But just at this stage the services of one of the well known party heeled of the town of Selkirk were called into his assistance, and this man succeeded in including the chief and his councillors to violate the pledge they had given to the band, and to meet Chief Justice Howell and arrange terms of surrender. It is now alleged that the consent of the chief and the councillors

was secured only after it was agreed to pay these men a considerable amount of money and a large amount of land, in addition to what the average Indian was to get. These were the influences that were brought to bear upon these poor ignorant Indians, who with the cunning of the Indian and the deviltry and cupidity of the white man in their nature, because two of these men are half white. These men were secured by this man and the government officials to assist in securing the surrender. They were purchased to violate the pledges which they had given and to betray the band which had elected them to office. As evidence that these men were paid to betray their band, I submit this letter, which was brought down in one of the returns by the minister. To me it is very strong circumstantial evidence that the statement I have made is absolutely correct. This letter was written by a man named Ernest Rayner, who is credited with having done the trick:

Selkirk, October 17, 1907.

F. Pedley, Esq.,  
Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—Please find statement of cash and goods expended by me in connection with the St. Peter's surrender. As the estimated cost was \$500, you will see the work was done reasonably. Trusting this will be satisfactory, I remain,

Yours respectfully,  
EARNEST RAYNER.

This man, it must be remembered, was not a government official. He was simply a clerk in one of the stores in the town of Selkirk, and one of the leading Liberal workers in the town, a man who was always on hand to do the work of his party. This was the man secured to carry on these negotiations. There is no account on record to show what that money was for. I have asked for the account, and it is not to be found. In fact, the Indian Department very wisely refused to pay it, as I presume the hon. minister knows. But this letter proves that there was some distinct understanding between Mr. Rayner and somebody that the Indian Department was going to make good this \$500, which was the estimated cost of the peculiar work he was supposed to do. Rumor had it in the streets of Selkirk, from the time the deal was negotiated, that the chief was to receive \$200 in cash, and the councillors \$100 apiece. That would exactly account for this \$500 which this man claimed from the Indian Department, and which the department refused to pay. Judge Howell refused to O. K. the bill. But the debt was incurred, and the understanding was arrived at by somebody, and this man had to get the money. How was it done? Well, I have not direct evidence, but I have circumstantial evi-

dence, which is sometimes the strongest evidence a man can adduce. You find that, according to the terms of surrender, the chief was entitled to receive 180 acres of land, and he actually did receive 199 acres. By the same surrender the councillors were entitled to receive 120 acres each, and they did receive an average of 140 acres each. As there were five of them, they just received sufficient to make up about 100 acres which, at the current price, settled among the dealers, gave the \$500 necessary to recoup this man for the money he had used to pay the chief and councillors for betraying the band that had elected them to office. I do not see how there can be the slightest doubt in the mind of any one who knows anything about the circumstances that this money was made up in this way to recoup this man for the sum he had spent. What other possible reason can there be? Why should these men have got this extra land? The treaty provided that the chief should get 180 acres, and the councillors 120 acres each. And instead they got this additional land. It is therefore a fair deduction from the facts that it was from this additional land the \$500 was provided to pay these men for the betrayal of their trust.

As I have pointed out, the hon. minister (Mr. Oliver) was very much shocked when I used the word 'bribery' in this connection. Let me say now that I can find no other word which can so adequately describe the conduct of the government in this matter, in which it secured the surrender, first, by giving the chief thirteen times and each councillor nine times more land than was given to an ordinary Indian, and then by giving the chief and council money and goods to secure their consent. If this be not bribery, and the most contemptible kind of bribery, of the representatives of the Indians to induce them to betray those who had elected them, then I do not know what the word means. What a spectacle of wisdom of the utter lack of honesty of purpose this whole transaction reveals! None but the new school of Liberals could have conceived and worked out such a contemptible scheme. It is a disgrace to the government, and will cause honest men to blush to think that the government would allow its wards, these poor unfortunate Indians, to be treated in the manner I have described.

After the consent of the chief and council had been secured, let me point out what took place. After several private meetings had been held in the town of Selkirk between the chief and council and Chief Justice Howell and an officer of the Indian Department—I think it was Mr. Laird—and lawyers appointed by this government—for what purpose I do not know, except to get a fee, for they certainly did nothing for the Indians—this surrender was ob-

tained. All the negotiations took place at these private meetings, and a surrender was agreed upon by the chief and council, who were purchased to betray the band. The Indians, as a band, were not consulted, they knew absolutely nothing about these meetings except from hearing that private meetings were going on, they had a pledge from their chief and councillors that no surrender would take place, and they had confidence in their chief and council, and thought everything was all right. But they were rudely awakened from that feeling of security by the publication of the following notice, which was posted up at four different places on the reserve, calling a meeting of the band to discuss this all important question of the surrender of their homes and the heritage they had enjoyed from childhood and which had been handed down to them by their fathers and grandfathers. Let me read this notice, and I am sure even the hon. minister will be astonished when he hears what I am going to tell him, for I give him the credit of believing that he does not know one-half of the scandalous conduct which has taken place in connection with this transaction. This notice called a meeting of the band at one day's notice, and remember that was a meeting of a band of Indians living on a reserve 80 miles square, and they were summoned to this meeting to decide whether they should surrender their homes. One can well imagine how inadequate a day's notice would be to hold a meeting of that kind to a band covering so large a territory. The notice reads as follows:

To the St. Peter's Band of Indians:

Take notice, that a meeting of the male members of this band of the full age of twenty-one (21) years, will be held at the Treaty grounds of this reserve, on Monday the 23rd day of September, A.D. 1907, at 11 o'clock a.m., for the purpose of considering, deciding and assenting to the release and surrender of the St. Peter's Indian reserve on the terms to be set forth at the meeting.

CHIEF WILLIAM PRINCE.

J. D. LEWIS,  
Indian Agent

Dated at Selkirk, this 20th day of September, 1907.

As I have said, only one day's notice was given for these Indians to gather together. I am going to read to the House, in proof of the statement I have made, for I want to show that this whole transaction was not only disgraceful but illegal, and I do not believe that any properly constituted court in this country would uphold that surrender on the conditions under which it was secured—I am going now to read a letter from William Asham, ex-chief of the St. Peter's Indian band, one of the most intelligent Indians I have ever met. Mr. Asham is not an ordinary Indian. This man, if he

had enjoyed the advantages of education, would have been another Norquay. He is a man of transcendent ability, every letter from whom is in his own handwriting.

Dear Sir,—The inclosed is the original copy of the notice that was posted one day previous to the time of meeting for the surrender of St. Peter's reservation, effected September 24, 1907. The following is the size of the building where the meeting was held: Length, 29 feet; width, 18 feet. I may point out the building is a government storage, for that reason only about three parts of the building was used for the meeting.

Just imagine how ridiculous, for 200 men to gather in a little space not much bigger than that space opposite the Speaker's chair, to conduct these important negotiations. I have a telegram here from the same source:

Selkirk, Manitoba, January 26, 1910.

G. H. Bradbury.

House of Commons, Ottawa.

Band received one day's notice of meeting September 23. Notices, three or four posted on Sunday, September 22.

Now, Sir, I am told by the Indians, and told by this man, that this notice was not seen until some time after midday on Sunday, and the meeting was called for 11 o'clock the next day to discuss the all-important question of the surrender of this reserve. I have a copy of the original notice here that was stuck up. I have also a declaration here which I wish to place on record to confirm the letter:

Statutory Declaration.

Dominion of Canada, Province of Manitoba.

In the matter of the vote for surrender of the Indian lands in St. Peter's reserve, taken on September 24, 1907.

To Wit:

I, John Flett, of the parish of St. Peter's, in the province of Manitoba, Indian, do solemnly declare that I am a member of the St. Peter's Band of Indians; that the notices calling the meeting at which the vote surrendering the reserve was taken, were not posted up, nor did the Indians know anything about such a meeting until Sunday, the twenty-second day of September, A.D., 1907, just one day prior to the date of such meeting. The meeting was held on Monday, September 23, and duly adjourned until the next day, Tuesday, September 24, but at the time of such adjournment, no notice was given that the vote would finally be taken on Tuesday. Many of the Indians did not see or hear about the notice, and in consequence were not present at the meeting, and did not have a chance of expressing their views or voting. I believe that had ample time been given and the matter properly explained to the band, that many who were at their homes would have turned out and voted against the surrender of their reserve; many of the young men of the band were away from home working at various occupations and did not know or hear anything about a vote going to be taken owing to the shortness of the time given. That I have been told and believe

that some non-treaty men and some minors were counted amongst those voting for the surrender. That in my opinion the vote was most irregular and improper and was not taken according to the regular custom of our band.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously, believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1893.

Declared before me at the parish of St. Peter's, in the province of Manitoba, this 24th day of March, A.D., 1910.

(Sgd.) ROBERT G. McDONALD,

Commissioner in B. R., etc.

(Sgd.) JOHN FLETT.

I have four declarations of the same nature, but I will not trouble the House with reading them. This is not a party question; this is not a political question; so far as I am concerned it is a question of right and justice, and I say there is no man listening to me to-night but must realize how unreasonable, how unfair it was to call a meeting of that kind, giving the poor Indians only one day's notice to decide whether they would give up their homes where they were born and had raised their families. It is a scandalous thing, and the officials guilty of it and the government responsible for it ought to be condemned, and must be condemned by every honest man in this country.

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Will the hon. gentleman give the names of the other men?

Mr. BRADBURY. I have other declarations here to the same effect. One is signed by William Sinclair, who, I may say, is one of the most intelligent men of the band, the man that Mr. Williams, the law clerk, sent out by the department to investigate, employed as his interpreter while going round among the band. This man testifies also that only one day's notice was given to call this band of Indians together. Another declaration is signed by William Asham, an ex-chief. Now, regarding the meeting itself, it was a perfect farce; it was conducted as a farce. It was held in a little bit of a room not capable of holding one quarter of the Indians present. There were 289 qualified voters in that band, and there were something like 200 present in the little room, which was not big enough to hold 50 men comfortably. The government party, the men who attended with Mr. Pedley, numbered eight or ten, so there could not have been room for more than 40 or 50 Indians at any one time. The negotiations, I am told, were conducted almost entirely in English, and there was no proper interpretation of the proceedings to the Indians that were inside while the men that were outside knew practically nothing of what was going on except what they learned from their friends through the windows. Now, I want to call



the attention of the minister to clause 49 of the Indian Act, which states:

Except as in this part otherwise provided, no release or surrender of a reserve or a portion of a reserve, held for the use of the Indians of any band, or of any individual Indian, shall be valid or binding unless the release or surrender shall be assented to by a majority of the male members of the band of the full age of 21 years, at a meeting of council thereof summoned for that purpose.

Sir, there was less than 38 per cent of that band who voted for that surrender. The law distinctly says that a majority of the band is necessary to secure that surrender. After all that was done the government party were only able to secure a majority of seven of the men who were present. Another matter I wish to emphasize is this, that the young men, the backbone of the band, the men who were earning money, 75 of those young men were absent. Many of them were working on the lake, some were working for lumberers, some were in the harvest fields; while the old men who could not understand the English language were present, and a few of the others.

But the backbone and sinew of the band were not there and without giving these men a chance, without notifying them that this meeting was going to be called or that any negotiations were under way seeking a surrender of their homes, this government allows a transaction like that to be legalized, their homes taken from them, and their lands sold. I say that the matter is not only scandalous, but illegal and it ought to receive the condemnation of every honourable, and thoughtful man in and out of this House. I am informed by reliable men that although this notice calling the meeting was dated on September 20, it was not seen until Sunday, the 22nd, so there was just one day's notice. This fact alone adds to the suspicious nature of the whole nasty transaction, and indicates that the government has been guilty of an act utterly unworthy of any government of this country responsible for the care and protection of the poor unfortunate Indians who are the wards of the people of this country. There is the further fact that although the Act provides that the majority of the Indian vote is necessary to legalize a surrender of Indian lands, less than 30 per cent voted for this surrender. The matter is irregular and illegal, and I am surprised that the minister who presides over this department, if he is aware of all these facts, would for one moment stand for them. It is hard for any hon. member who listens to my voice to-night to believe that such a thing can take place in a country like Canada. We have boasted, and we get the credit of being just to our Indians, and yet this band of Indians have been practically robbed of their

homes, and their heritage by and through the assistance of the government and its agents. There is no doubt that no honest effort was made by the gentleman entrusted with the negotiations for this surrender to secure the presence of the male members of the band who were eligible to vote. The younger men, as I have pointed out, the men of intelligence, of some little education, the men who had some conception of the value of the heritage they enjoyed, were not present, in calling the meeting a time was chosen when these men were out working, and a snap verdict was secured in the absence of the men who would have known better, and would have resisted the allurements, and temptations that no doubt secured even the semblance of a majority that was obtained for that surrender. Everything points to a determined effort on the part of the government to secure the surrender of this magnificent reserve, by fair means or by foul means, and I am bound to say that the evidence I have had before me, and that I am trying to lay before this House leads me to believe that the means used were anything but fair, and were verging very closely on what might be called dishonest. When you take into account the fact that this surrender was not secured at the request of the town of Selkirk, that there was no petition from the town of Selkirk, no demand from the board of trade, that the only demand came from Mr. Jackson, then a member of this House, and a supporter of this government, and that Mr. Pedley makes the statement that he does in his letter that the throwing of these lands into the market was giving to the people what was long looked for, the lands that might be made available for farm, and other purposes, the only parties I know of who were looking for these lands were the men who got them. There was no demand from the town of Selkirk or anywhere else that this reserve should be taken from the Indians. Every hon. gentleman realizes what a small meeting means. The meeting in which this arrangement was completed consisted of not more than fifty men who were able to hear what took place as the building was too small to hold more. The proceedings were in the English language with no proper interpretation, and not one-quarter of that meeting understood half what took place, and I am safe in saying that not one-eighth of the band understood that these men were seeking to secure the surrender of their homes, and to acquire possession of their lands. During the Christmas holiday I visited the reserve, and I found there old people living in houses of which the land buyers had secured deeds. These Indians did not realize that they are not the owners of these houses, they believed that they were still their homes. I say that the

whole transaction is a disgrace to the government that has permitted it. The whole surrender was prepared not in a meeting before the band, but in a private meeting in Selkirk with three councillors, and the chief men who had been bought and bribed to attend the meeting. The surrender was drawn up, and put in typewriting, and taken down there to the meeting on September 23, by Mr. Pedley. They did not go down there, and arrange with the Indians. They went there to see if they could get the Indians to do what their chief and councillors had already agreed to, and the manner in which they did it is a disgrace to the men who perpetrated the acts that were perpetrated at that meeting. These Indians were not told the truth, they had nothing to do with it, and when they remonstrated with the conditions of the treaty or surrender they were told that it was all fixed, that it was in writing, that it was all completed, and there was no chance of changing it.

Now, we are told that when this meeting took place it lasted two days. The discussion was conducted for the Indians by ex-chief William Asham, a very intelligent man, who defended the rights of the Indians for two days before the commission before they dared take a vote. The first day's sitting started at eleven o'clock with Mr. Pedley in the chair. Mr. Chief Justice Howell and seven or eight other interested parties were present, and they discussed the pros and cons until four o'clock in the afternoon. Asham then demanded a vote, but, Mr. Speaker, these men who had come to Selkirk for the purpose of securing this surrender by fair means or foul, realized that the opinion of the band, in so far as they could judge, was strongly against the surrender. The consequence was that Pedley adjourned the meeting until the next day. That accounts for the two days meeting that was necessary for these negotiations. There was a good deal of manipulation and canvassing in the endeavour to secure the surrender, the effort going so far as offering to bribe Asham. I am told on the best authority, and I have a declaration which I will read to the House, that when they found that they could not overcome Wm. Asham's opposition, when they realized that they were up against a strong man who had the confidence of his band and who had the intelligence to combat what was taking place, they started to work and tried to bribe this man. When they adjourned for lunch this man was invited by W. D. Harper, one of the councillors, more white than Indian, with all the cunning of the Indian and all the devilry of the white man in his composition, to go to his house. There were several in the room. After lunch he

passed a piece of paper to Asham with these words written on it: What would you think if we made you equal to a councillor? Would you agree? Wm. Asham tells me that he understood the language and what it meant. It meant this: What would you think if we gave you as much land as we are getting? Would you then agree? Wm. Asham said: No, I could not agree under any consideration without betraying my band. He further says that he then went out of the door and he was told that S. J. Jackson wanted to see him. He says that he told them that he did not want to see S. J. Jackson. Then he walked over into the crowd and he found some one pulling at his coat, and, turning around, found our friend Mr. Jackson. He brought him outside of the crowd, and Mr. Jackson said: Mr. Asham, you are very much opposed to this surrender, are you not? Mr. Asham said: Yes, I am. Mr. Jackson said: Well now, look here, if we make you equal to these councillors and give you as much land as they are getting, I will guarantee to get you the patent within six weeks. Asham turned on him and said: No, Mr. Jackson, I would consider that I was accepting a bribe to betray my band. This man was loyal and refused to be bribed. But the bribery and the effort at bribery did not end there.

An hon. MEMBER. Who was S. J. Jackson?

Mr. BRADBURY. S. J. Jackson was at that time the member for Selkirk. After two days of negotiation and discussion trying to win over the poor, unfortunate Indians by fair means or foul, Mr. Pedley decided that the time had come to take a vote. It was about 4.30 or 5 o'clock in the evening. It is alleged, now, that Mr. Pedley said: We must take a vote, and he stood up in the middle of the room and said: Gentlemen, or rather men—I have an affidavit which I will read to the House later describes it better than I can describe it—But Pedley said I have \$5,000 here in my satchel; if you vote for this surrender tonight I will distribute this \$5,000 amongst you; if you do not vote for this surrender I will take my bag and go home, and you won't get a cent. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if he considers that bribery?

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Who said that?

Mr. BRADBURY. Frank Pedley, Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, the man instructed by the minister to go to Selkirk, and secure the surrender of this reserve. I would like to ask the minister, I would like to ask any hon. gentleman within hearing of my voice, whether or not he considers that bribery. How would a man appear if he stood on a political platform, and made a declara-

tion of that kind to an audience? What chance would there be of that man holding his seat before an honest judge? He would be unseated immediately; he would not dare go into court. But this was not all. These men were desperate, they were bound to get that surrender, and after Mr. Pedley had made that statement he said: Now the time has come to take a vote; this room is too small; get outside in the field among the rest. Two-thirds of them were outside. These men went out and before they divided the Rev. John Semmons, Indian inspector, stood forward, held up his hand, and, speaking loudly in the language that the band understood, the Cree language, he said: All you that want \$90 go to that side, indicating the side on which the councillors, the chief, Chief Justice Howell and Mr. Pedley were standing, and that side was counted in favour of the surrender. Yet, in spite of these two facts, first, the statement by the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs that he had \$5,000 to distribute amongst those people, if they voted for surrender and the direction of Mr. Semmons that if they wanted \$90 they should go to one side, they Pedley and his party only succeeded in securing seven of a majority. I have evidence here in my hand to show that non-treaty men who had no right to vote were counted amongst those favouring the surrender, and that minors, young men, also put in their votes. In the face of this evidence it must be clear to every man in this House that the manner in which the surrender of St. Peter's Indian reserve was secured shows that this was one of the most scandalous transactions that has ever taken place in this country. In view of the facts that I have tried to lay before this House fairly, I would ask the minister whether he thinks I was justified in using the word 'bribery' in this connection? In view of the transfer to the chief of thirteen times, and the councillors of nine times as much land as the ordinary Indian got, besides payments of cash and goods to these traitors to betray their band, the chief and council, to agree to the surrender in the first place, the statement made by Mr. Pedley, the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs that he would distribute \$5,000 among them if they would agree to the surrender, and the further statement of Mr. Semmons, which was altogether misleading to the effect that all you who want \$90 step to that side am I not justified in saying that there is absolute proof of the bribery and trickery that were committed during this transaction? I am bound to say, Sir, that I think the whole transaction was one of the most contemptible pieces of trickery ever perpetrated on the poor Indian and the government responsible for it is utter-

ly unworthy of the confidence reposed in it by the people of this country. The minister responsible for this department has been appealed to time and again by myself to investigate, and he has been appealed to time after time by the Indians, and he has promised to visit that reserve, but he has always failed to do so. The minister now must take the full responsibility, and the government through one of its departments has been guilty of a cowardly, and contemptible act in connection with securing the surrender of the St. Peter's Indian reserve. That there may be no misunderstanding about this \$5,000, I hold in my hand Mr. Pedley's letter to the minister in which he says:

Five thousand dollars was left at the time of the surrender with the Indian Agent Lewis and Inspector Semmons to distribute to the Indians of the band. Part of this was done on the spot at the time of surrender and the balance will be distributed from time to time as the parties entitled to it appear before the agent for that purpose.

An hon. MEMBER. Whose money was that?

Mr. BRADBURY. It was the people's money. That money was taken from the public treasury, and taken to Selkirk for the purpose of securing that surrender. There is no doubt that since that land has been sold it has been charged up against these unfortunate Indians and taken out of their money. Now, to give you some little idea of how these land transactions were negotiated and all the contemptible trickery that was resorted to to beat these poor Indians even out of the land that the government had so prodigally and wickedly given to them—because I hold the government had no right to make the Indian competent just for a few weeks or a few months to deal in land; I hold that the Indian was not competent; I hold that the Indian was just as much a ward of the government during the time that surrender was going on as he ever was and as he is to-day. I have, Sir, a letter in my hand from the Indian agent, Mr. Lewis, the man who was part and parcel of this whole transaction, the man who stood in and assisted in these land transactions, because I want to say that these land dealers who bought these lands for less than one-third of their value, did their dealing right under the Indian agent's nose. There was a building with the Indian office in one part of it, Mr. Heap, the lawyer, in another part of it, and the land office in another part of it. If the patents could not be found in the Indian agent's office, they would go to the lawyer's office, and if they could not find them there, they would go to the land agent's office, and invariably they

would find the patents in the possession of the land agent and not the Indian agent. I have no doubt that the minister will refer to a report by one of his Indian agents, who made an investigation, whitewashed this wolf Tracy, who practically robbed these poor Indians. I will tell you what took place in connection with that man. As soon as he found out these poor Indians were going to be allowed to sell these valuable lands, he immediately endeavoured to get them in debt. That is not a hard thing to do, for the Indian will take anything you give him. He would go to the Indian and say: John put me up 10 tons of hay, after he knew the man was going to give him 32 acres of land. If he knew he was going to get 80 acres of land, he might ask him to put up 20 tons or 40 tons. He would then advance the Indian a little money \$10 or \$20 and would ask the Indian to touch the pen, when he Tracy would sign some paper. No explanation given, it turned out to be a power of attorney. The Indian would get the hay, and this man had signed for the Indian a power of attorney, the strongest power of attorney that any legal man in the city of Winnipeg could draw, which gave him absolute control of the Indians land. The Indian would come in the fall and say: Tracy, I have the hay, and Tracy would say: I don't want the hay, you had better keep it yourself. There would be no understanding; Tracy would charge that man \$8 a ton for the hay that the Indian had made on his own land. Now I am looking into the faces of some honest men on the opposite side of the House, and I know they will be astonished—I am looking now right into the face of the Minister of Railways—I know that some of these honest men opposite will be astonished when I tell them that in some of these accounts there is \$400 charged for hay that George Tracy was supposed to sell the poor Indians. The Indians did not want to buy hay, the Indian made the hay on Indian lands, and Tracy first gave him an advance of about \$2 a ton to put it up. Then, after the Indian got it up, Tracy did not want it, and the Indian kept it and George Tracy charged him \$8 for keeping it. And, Mr. Speaker, these accounts were presented to the men who were getting the land and every dollar was paid to Tracy, showing there was collusion between the four men. There were only four men who had any transactions to any great extent. Out of the 23,000 acres that the Indians got, four men got nearly 18,000 acres of it. Some of the storekeepers in the town got a few acres, but these four men got 95 per cent of these lands. There is no Indian I have met, or very few of them, who admit that they ever received anything like \$5 an acre for their land. Every one of these men who got the lands were good strong supporters of the present

government. For the information of my friends here, I want to say that I do not know one Conservative who ever secured an acre of these lands except two storekeepers in the town of Selkirk, and these two storekeepers secured a few acres in connection with some of the supplies that were given to these land dealers. The land dealers were very shrewd men; they wanted to get on the good side of the people of the town of Selkirk, especially the merchants, and they fixed the Indian in this way. When the Indian got anything, they would give him an order on the store for, say \$10, on the understanding that he would get \$5 cash and the other \$5 he had to take out in trade. In this way the storekeepers got to understand something about the transaction and they made small deals themselves, and got a few acres of this land. The four dealers who got this land were Wm. Frank, of the city of Winnipeg, real estate dealer; a man named Funk, an American, who was brought in by the Indian agent; a man named Fred. Heap, a Liberal lawyer, who got \$1,800 in connection with this treaty out of the Indian funds, and this man George Tracy. These were the four men. Now, what does the agent, Lewis, say about these Indians? The hon. minister, speaking across the floor of this House a few months ago, sought to lead the House to believe that these men were thoroughly competent to transact their own business. He said they were just as shrewd as the average man in this House. What does the Indian agent say? He says in a letter addressed to the Indian Department:

While a large percentage of the St. Peter's Indians resent interference in their business, there is, I believe, a majority of them too illiterate and helpless to manage a real estate sale, especially where the payment of the land extended, as in most cases it did, over a period of one year, and was made by orders on stores and with truck and small cash payments. The Indians sold only in small parcels and at different prices, and not always to the same buyer. The Indian gave a statutory deed as soon as he sold setting forth the price. He received a small payment down with the promise of the balance as soon as he was able to deliver the patent. The selling began as soon as the locating started. Thus a year elapsed between some of the sales and the receiving of the patent. There was nothing expressed in the deeds as to future payments. In fact as far as anything was set forth in the deed the Indian was paid in full. He was dependent entirely upon the honour of the buyer for the fulfilment of the verbal contract. You can readily understand that the accounts extending over so long a period have become long and complicated. This shows however scandalous it was to give these poor Indians lands to do as they pleased with.

Winnipeg, Sept. 7, 1909.

The Honourable Frank Oliver,  
Indian Department,  
Ottawa, Ont.

In face of the letter that was written by the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, and surely he would not dare to write such a letter without instructions from his chief—warning the public that no transfers would be recognized, these men, when they got the poor Indians to come into their office and sell their lands, and to receive as they thought an advance of a few dollars on the sale, actually got them to touch a pen and they then signed for the poor ignorant Indian a statutory deed, and that deed was registered just imagine that: right under the nose of the Indian Agent, the man paid by this country to look after and protect the wards of the people, these men were allowed to take statutory deeds from the Indians for land worth from \$500 to \$1,000, on advances of \$10, and any money they got after that was in small payments of \$5 or \$10. Nobody knows what the Indians got except the man who paid it out, and they have the audacity now to come forward and say that the books show that the Indians were paid. Why, any man who has anything to do with transactions of this kind knows how easy it is to arrange books to show that an Indian got full pay when he did not get perhaps 25 per cent of what was coming to him.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am going to refer to another Indian Agent, Mr. Swinford, who corroborates what I stated in the beginning, that the Indian chief and councillors were the paid agents of the land buyers. I stated that just as soon as Mr. Frank, the real estate agent, came back from Ottawa, he started to purchase lands, the first thing they did was to secure the assistance of the chief and councillors. In that way they were able to get at the poor Indian. I have a letter from Mr. Swinford in which he said:

It must be remembered that all the land buyers used the chief and councillors of the band as interpreters and as agents to bring Indians to them and induce them, if possible, to sell their land, and in return these interpreters and agents were rewarded with \$5 or more for each transaction in which a transfer of land took place.

In the face of this whole transaction, every hon. gentleman must see that these Indians have been unfortunate enough to have been tricked through the assistance of their own chief and councillors; but the government and their agents are the men who must take the full responsibility.

I am going to read a sample case from an authority which the hon. minister will hardly feel like disputing. I hold in my hands a letter taken from the returns brought down by this House, which will give some idea of the incompetence of the Indian. It is from A. B. Hudson, of Hudson & Howell, a partner of Chief Justice Howell's son, and is as follows:

Dear Sir,—Messrs. William and J. W. Asham, two of the Indians entitled to allotments in the above reserve, called on me and asked me to write to your department with reference to their claims. It appears that J. W. Asham was entitled to a grant of ninety-six acres under the settlement of allotments in the above reserve. On these ninety-six acres were farm improvements made. In the month of April or May, 1908, one G. H. Funk, of Selkirk, induced Asham, while in a state of intoxication, to make a sale of sixteen acres of the above parcel at \$5 per acre. Asham, however, was aware of what he was doing and it is doubtful if a court could set aside the transaction. Shortly afterward a second sale of forty acres at the rate of \$5 per acre was made to Funk. Asham was then also in a state of intoxication but apparently understood very shortly after the nature of what he had done and did not at once repudiate the sale.

Subsequently, on the 4th September of last year, Asham was taken up in Selkirk for being drunk and locked up. Funk went to him in the jail and tried to prevail on him to sell the remaining forty acres for which he agreed to pay \$12.50 an acre because the buildings happened to be on this particular parcel. During the day Asham was released, but while still drunk was induced to sign certain documents. A few hours afterwards William Asham, above named, came and discovered what had happened. He then took charge of his son, J. W., and on the latter becoming sober went with him to Funk and returned the \$15 which Funk had paid on account.

It appears from the statement of William Asham, who is a very intelligent man, that similar transactions have been entered into with a large number of the Indians on the above reserve. The land which has been bought at \$5 an acre is worth in the neighbourhood of \$20 or \$25. The Indians are quite incompetent to look after their own interests and none of them can afford the money necessary to carry on lawsuits to retrieve their possessions. Some three or four have been instituted, and I have got from Mr. H. W. H. Knott a letter showing the position of the suits carried on in his office.

From the above statement it would seem that some support should be given to the Indians to carry on these suits. I should be glad to know if your department can do anything to assist in the matter.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) A. B. HUDSON.

This man states that these bargains were made with these men when they were drunk, and that one of them was made in the lock-up. One was made right in the lock-up where he got his man to agree to sell these lands. The Indian Asham came to me himself and, he said to me: My son has been robbed of his home; he had beautiful land, land worth \$30 or \$40 an acre, when he was drunk he went to Selkirk, and the land dealers got around him,

and got him to give them his land. I was willing to let them take the first forty acres they got from the boy, because I thought it served him right for getting drunk; but when they went to the jail and bought the last piece of land from him, his house, farm and everything he owned, and got him to sign it all off, I thought that was something which could not be borne. His wife came to me crying, and I went to the jail, and took out the boy, and we went to Funk's office, and I offered to Funk the \$15 which he had advanced my boy, and I said to him: This is my son's wife, you have taken his farm, and all that he has, here is your money back, give him back the land. Funk said no, I have got the land and intend to keep it, and he did keep it.

That is one of the things I asked the hon. minister to investigate. This is one of the many scandalous transactions connected with this whole matter. But the minister told me there was nothing to investigate, that the Indian had made his own bargain and must abide by it. In other words, that he had made his bed and must lie on it. This is the way these poor unfortunate Indians are treated, whom the people imagine this department, which is costing the country millions of dollars annually, is protecting and looking after.

An hon. MEMBER. What was the answer to the letter?

Mr. BRADBURY. It was simply a letter written to the department asking if the department would assist them in going to court, and the answer was that the department could not interfere. These transactions became so notorious that the Lands Titles office at Winnipeg, on the advice of two justices of the King's Bench—two Liberals—the registrar general of Manitoba refused to issue a title on any one of those patents. The advice was that, so far as these two justices could gather, the land had been taken fraudulently from the Indians. The consequence is that these patents are lying to-day in the registry office at Winnipeg which refuses to issue a Torrens title in exchange for it. But these parties had their titles registered at Selkirk, and secured themselves in that way. The Lands Titles office at Winnipeg, however, under the advice of two justices of the King's Bench, has refused to recognize these patents, and issue licenses.

Just to prove that statement, I am going to read another piece of Lewis's letter to the department:

July 5, 1909.

On account of the irregular size of the allotments and the inequality of the divisions of the land those who purchased have applied to the Provincial Land Titles Office for a title under the Torrens system getting cer-

tificates for quarter sections of the land removing what at present might be described as a patchwork of titles to a section.

By request on the 29th inst., I went up to Winnipeg and had a conversation with Mr. Macara, the registrar of the Provincial Lands Titles office. He told me that he objected to granting certificates of title to these lands unless he was thoroughly satisfied that the Indians were fully and satisfactorily settled with, that he had been warned by two justices of the King's Bench that satisfactory settlement had not been made in all cases and from that and other reports he could not issue any more titles unless some steps were taken to assure him that every applicant to him could show him positively that there would be no after claims upon the land.

This is from the Indian agent, J. O. Lewis who corroborates what I have said, namely, that this transaction became so notorious and scandalous that the Land Title office at Winnipeg refused to issue a title. That was the advice that these two judges gave to Mr. Macara. Here is what he said:

However, aside from the attitude that I assumed with Mr. Macara, I am of the opinion that it would be advisable to take advantage of the position he assumes and the desire of all the purchasers to get Torrens certificates to arrange for a supervision of these accounts. These people are wards of the government and I assume that it is no desire of the department to leave them entirely to themselves to suffer any injustice even if they have so wilfully insisted upon it.

I do not think I need say a word further to demonstrate that the whole transaction bears on its face evidence of the fraud I have described. There has been no attempt at meting out justice to these poor Indians. From the very beginning of the negotiations the effort has been to get these lands by fair means or foul. Now, this letter has a list of the purchasers, and I will put it on record. The biggest purchaser was the Selkirk and Northern Realty Company, the manager was Mr. Wm. Frank. That company was formed after Wm. Frank had secured nearly all the lands the company has at the present time. That company was composed of Capt. Wm. Robinson, a Liberal, of the city of Winnipeg; Wm. Frank, another Liberal; F. Heap, also a Liberal, of the town of Selkirk; Clark, M.D., Winnipeg; McPherson, lawyer, Winnipeg, and others, all Liberals.

Of the 18,000 acres sold by the Indians it is safe to say that the first two firms on the list bought 14,000. F. Heap bought 1,200 and Tracy about the same amount.

Making about 16,400 acres at the time that these four men had purchased. The other men that Lewis states had made some purchases of small amounts were the following: C. Finkleman, storekeeper, of the town of Selkirk; C. Howitz, Jno. Mor-

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risson, Millidge Bros., E. F. Comber, E. Raynor, James Monkman, Colin McIvor, Wm. Fidler, Geo. H. Fox.

For the information of this House, I may say that out of all these men there are just two among them that might be classed as Conservatives, and they secured a small acreage; but ninety-five per cent of this land passed into the hands of men for whom apparently this whole transaction had been arranged. Now, it was distinctly stated by Mr. Pedley's letter referred to that no transaction would be recognized until such time as the patents were issued. I hold in my hand a statement of a few of the transactions as they stand in the lands titles office in Winnipeg to-day, which will prove that in nearly every one of these cases the land was bought and bargained for, and the deed was secured from six to nine months before a patent was issued by the Crown. I hold that in the face of the letter that the department wrote, the department must have known of the facts before these patents were issued, and the department had ample opportunity to protect these Indians and see that these patents went into the hands of the rightful owners. Now, I state formally to the hon. minister that ninety-five per cent of the patents issued by the Crown went directly into the hands of the land dealers and not into the hands of the Indians. I say that not ten per cent of the Indians ever touched their patent or ever saw it. I will put a few of these on record, a few of the transactions made by Mr. Tracy:

1. Application 21522, lot 27, St. Peter's, B. & S., dated 25th June, 1908, Alex. Fielding to George Tracy. Patent dated 9th December, 1908. Crown to Alex. Fielding, lot 28, St. Peter's, B. & S. dated 16th August, 1908, Wm. Sinclair to George Tracy. Patent dated 27th February, 1909, Crown to Wm. Sinclair.

2. Application 21542, lot 74, St. Peter's, B. & S., dated 18th July, 1908, George Stevenson to George Tracy. Patent dated 15th December, 1908, Crown to George Stevenson.

3. Application 21592, part of L. S. 5 of section 24-15-4 east, B. & S. dated 25th February, 1908, Mary Prince, chief to George Tracy. Patent for same dated 25th November, 1908.

4. Application, part of lot 76, St. Peter's, B. & S., dated 3rd September, 1908, Benjamin Thomas to George Tracy. Patent dated 15th December, 1908, Crown to Benjamin Thomas.

I will not take up the time of the House by reading all of these, but out of these 410 patents issued to the Indians, I think it safe to say that 400 were issued all the way from three months to a year after the Indians had disposed of their land. I am satisfied that a large percentage of these deals were secured before there was any proper survey or allotment made. What does that mean? Simply this, that there was a blank deed taken, and it was filled in and dated afterwards. There is not a

question in my mind that a large percentage of those transactions were worked out in that way; and this was done right under the nose of the Indian agent, next door to his office, and done with his connivance and knowledge. And still the department says that there is nothing to investigate. Now, I wish to draw the attention of the minister responsible for this transaction to a discussion we had in this House in which he gave me a friendly lecture for using language that he said was not justified in regard to this transaction. He told me that when I talked of bribery I was not well advised. I have his own language where he said:

Mr. OLIVER. Again my hon. friend has used the word bribe and used it in connection with the distribution of land among Indians. Bribe is an ugly word. Whoever gives a bribe must be responsible, and whoever makes a charge must be equally responsible for his accusation. If the giving of the land was a bribe, that was given by Chief Justice Howell.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. OLIVER. Undoubtedly. There was no other authority to give it or to make the arrangement, and the arrangement was made open and above board. It was considered fair and right that the chief and councillors should get a larger share of the land than the other Indians, and my hon. friend is not well advised in using the word bribe in connection with that part of the transaction, and he must take the responsibility of having accused the chief justice of bribery.

That is the minister's own language in this House. He stated that if there was any land given it was given by Chief Justice Howell, and that he was the man who must have committed the bribery. Now, I want to tell the minister what he must know already that it was not Chief Justice Howell who gave this land, he did not give one acre of this land. He made a recommendation, and I have his report here in which he says:

From time to time I approached the men for the purpose of inducing them to surrender the reserve and take new ones. The negotiations continued for many months.

This shows it was impossible for Chief Justice Howell to give land to these men. These men did not want to surrender the reserve. The negotiations continued for several months. After many proposals and counter-proposals had been discussed the matter finally culminated in a deed of surrender, the terms of which are in writing. He says:

Without giving further reasons for my urging the surrender, and without further description of the negotiations—

I do not think he would care to describe fully or fairly the negotiations in writing—

I can only say that they were the best I could get, best for the government and for

the Indian, and without any hesitation I recommend that carrying out of the same.

He did not carry them out, he recommended the government to carry them out. In another place he says:

I assume that the surrender will be carried out, and I am therefore relieved from the burden of finding the amount of damages due the band for the grievances above detailed.

This shows that Chief Justice Howell had nothing to do with giving the Indian's lands except that he made the recommendation, and I have here a letter from another gentleman; the deputy superintendent general, whom the minister dispatched to Selkirk to do this very work, to secure a surrender. Here is what he says under date October 26, 1907:

Pursuant to your instructions I left Ottawa on the 17th ultimo, and reached Winnipeg on the 19th ultimo, to take up with the St. Peter's Band of Indians, near Selkirk, the question of the surrender of their reserve at that place.

When this reserve, consisting of about 55,000 acres, was set aside in 1871, provision was made that the rights of the parties holding lands within the boundaries of the reserve should be protected, and as a result of this some 5,000 acres have been patented to parties other than Indians. In order to settle the remaining outstanding claims, Chief Justice Howell, of Manitoba, was appointed a commissioner, in November, 1906, for this purpose, and from several interviews with him I judged that there would be from 1,500 to 2,000 acres still to be patented, thus leaving as belonging to the reserve proper, about 48,000 acres. This was the area that I dealt with in my negotiations with the Indians for a surrender.

After several days' negotiations, the Indians surrendered upon the following terms.

Who made the surrender? The minister himself is directly responsible for this surrender. He instructed his Deputy Superintendent General to proceed to Selkirk and conduct the negotiations for surrender according to this memorandum, and when the minister warned me across the floor that I was not well advised in using the word bribery and said that if bribery had been committed it was Chief Justice Howell who committed it, he will realize now that he made a statement that was hardly justified. The hon. gentleman stated with some force, force enough to make some of my own friends feel that the statements I made were hardly tenable, that the patents had been made out in the Indians' names and had been handed to the Indians. He said:

As to the assignments from the Indians to the purchasers of their lands, the House and the public were informed that no assignments would be recognized by the department, and in every case my information is that the patent was made out to the Indian and not to anybody else, and it was handed

to the Indian. Now I ask the House in all fairness how is the Indian Department to be made responsible for the disposition that the Indian subsequently made of that patent, a patent which he received under the agreement of surrender negotiated as I have stated? It was his to do with as he pleased. It may be that it was not proper to give him a patent with which he could do as he pleased. But that was a part of the terms of surrender, negotiated as I have said, on the responsibility I have explained to the House.

I have read here declaration after declaration stating that these men have never seen their patents, never made an application for their patents, and never signed a receipt for their patents. I have talked to dozens, and with few exceptions they say: Mr. Bradbury, we have never seen our patents, we have never made an application, we have never signed a receipt for them. In the face of these facts the minister was not well informed when he stated that the patents were made out to the Indians and delivered to the Indians. I believe the patent was made out to the Indians as it could not be made out in any other way, but that it was delivered to the Indian I deny; the Indians, with few exceptions, never saw it, and further, the patents sent to this Indian agent, the man who was supposed to stand between the Indian and the land buyer, were handed not to the Indian, but to the land buyer. I have 30 or 40 declarations which the minister can have, many of them stating that the patents were seen in Frank's office or in Funk's office or in Heap's office, but seldom in Lewis' office. Some thought they had a balance coming to them and went to the offices for it. They were asked to sign a receipt for the patents and on refusing to do so they were shoved out of the office. The land buyers kept the patent, the receipt was signed all right, but it was not signed by the Indians. The minister tried to make it appear to the House that the lands sold by auction were sold in larger parcels than the land sold to the Indians, that is one of the explanations, that the land was sold in 16-acre lots. The consequence was that land sold in quarter-sections would bring better prices than Indian lands. He said:

As to the difference in price between the land that was sold by the Indians to private parties and the land that was sold by auction, it must surely appear to any one that little patches of land in areas of 16 acres do not have the same value in a farming country such as Manitoba as an area of 160 acres.

Mr. FOSTER. No, if they all remain 16 acre areas. They were not allowed to remain in 16 acre areas.

Mr. OLIVER. They were allowed to remain in 16 acre areas. If I bought 16 acres off you and 16 acres off another man and 16 acres off another man and so on. I have to take my chances of being able to get those different parcels brought together so as to



make a single block. Does my hon. friend suggest that that land would be as valuable to me as if I could have bought the whole 160 acres in one lot?

Mr. FOSTER. Yes, if you knew you could get it all put together.

Mr. OLIVER. How could you know? There was no way you could know. If Brown, Jones and Robinson each held single patents for 16 acre lots of land, how are you going to ensure that Brown, Jones and Robinson are going to lump their sections together at your convenience, unless you pay them for it? So I say if that land was sold in blocks of 160 acres it is surely more valuable than the land that was sold in 16 acre pieces.

What is the inference to be drawn from that? The inference drawn by the minister was that all these Indian allotments were sold in 16-acre lots. The minister knows better to-day. He may not have known then, I do not think he did, but I want to state to the House that the Indian lots averaged within a few acres of the same size as land sold by public auction. The allotments to heads of families were 80 acres and suppose there were 400 other allotments and that there were 23,000 acres that would divide up into something over 58 acres to every patent; so when the minister made that argument in the House it was entirely misleading and calculated to entirely mislead the House and the country into the idea that the Indian lands were sold in smaller parcels, while the land sold by auction was sold in large parcels.

Speaking of the receipts for patents, I am forced to read another letter:

St. Peter's, December 14, 1909.

Without any doubt the majority of St. Peter's band of Indians never made applications for their patents and how could they sign receipt for such patent which they never saw.

With regard to the sale of land made by Indians of St. Peter's, Frank, Heap & Funk, and others bought land before even the land was subdivided; they were the party that selected the choice land. Of course, they had the chief and councillors under their thumb to help them out in the selection of land. When buying they were careful to have a certain Indian that would sell to have his name to a particular piece of land. At this time it was impossible to describe the land properly. It is most likely they waited until such time the subdivision was made or after the issuing of patents and then made out a proper deed.

That is exactly what is done. I think this Indian has summed it up pretty well, because it is an Indian that has written this letter.

The Indians that did not want to sell were debarred from securing the choice land, for the reason as above stated.

Every acre of these Indian allotments was picked. The Indians who had been given allotments had the first choice out of

this 48,000 acres, so that it was picked land.

I wish to point out several instances: James William Asham was working at Fisher river under the employ of the Indian Department; during his absence his patent came at the Indian office. I went up to the Indian office several times and made inquiry whether the patent was there. I said then that they were aware that the boy was away from home and that no one was to be allowed to take the patent away from the office until such time the boy would come. When he came we went to the Indian office after the patent but to our annoyance no patent was to be found; couldn't even get any information who took it away.

Frederick Asham was out at Lake Winnipeg, while being away his patent came out at the Indian office; on his arrival went to the Indian office for said patent and found that some person had taken away the patent; then demanded who this person was and who would dare to do the likes without first obtaining his permission. Finally he received a copy of a receipt of his patent, signed by William Henry Prince, councillor. I saw the copy of the receipt myself.

I have no hesitation in saying that these receipts for these patents that are in the department to-day purporting to be signed by the Indians are, in a majority of cases, forgeries. There is no question about that. They were never signed by the Indians themselves, knowingly. Here is one case, and this man goes on to say:

I mention these two persons in order that you may know that it was a matter of impossibility to sign receipt of receiving their patents from the hands of the Indian agent. Many more instances similar to this could be brought to light if the matter was to be investigated.

I have already a copy of a letter ready for signatures, whenever is completed will forward same to your address.

(Sgd.) WILLIAM ASHAM.

This proves the statement I have made that neither an application for these patents was taken or a receipt given, and yet the Indian agent, upon whom the minister, I presume, depends to see that these things are done, is still retained in office at Selkirk. During my campaign, that man told me on the train that he had resigned his position; yet, he is drawing his salary whether he is doing the work or not.

Just for a few minutes I want to refer to the auction of this land. Fifteen thousand acres of this land were sold by public auction. I have a letter from the department which tells me that the average price secured for this land was \$5.68 per acre. Further on the writer of this letter says:

I may say that the average price of the lands sold by public auction at Swan Lake on the 9th ult. amounted to \$17.62 per acre.

This land at Selkirk, less than 26 miles from Winnipeg, was the best available land

in Manitoba. Swan lake is nearly 100 miles away from Winnipeg, and yet land there brings \$17.62 per acre as against \$5.68 per acre at Selkirk. The minister stated that these auctioned lands were sold in quarter-sections. He must know better now. To quote his own language:

Mr. ARMSTRONG. May I ask the minister if the 22,000 acres that were sold by auction were all sold in bulk and at one time?

Mr. OLIVER. They were all sold by quarter sections but at the one auction sale, and in sixty or seventy parcels.

What are the facts? The land was sold, not in fifty or sixty parcels, but in 185 different parcels. The average size of the parcels was not any greater, or very slightly greater, than the average size of the Indian allotments, and to prove that I will just read for the minister's information, and for the information of the House, from a return that was brought down and laid on the table by the minister showing the size of a few of the parcels:

Statement showing lands at St. Peter's reserve sold by auction on the 16th December, 1908, giving name of purchaser, area and price.

No.	Acres.
107.. . . . .	20.31
112.. . . . .	51
116.. . . . .	21
119.. . . . .	38
124.. . . . .	34
127.. . . . .	30
146.. . . . .	17
233.. . . . .	10
228.. . . . .	10
227.. . . . .	8
226.. . . . .	6

I could go through the whole list and show the same thing. But, I want to say to this House that every statement that was made when this matter was discussed by the minister was altogether contrary to the facts, and were entirely misleading. I think that the minister was misled himself; I do not believe that he did it intentionally, but, I repeat that every statement that he made was misleading. Regarding the time at which this land was sold, and to show how this whole scheme was worked so that this auctioned land would not bring any more than the Indian land, let me tell the House how it was safeguarded:

Mr. SCHAFFNER. At what time was your auction held?

Mr. OLIVER. In the latter part of October or early in November.

Mr. BRADBURY. That is just as misleading as the other statement. The fact is that the sale was held in the middle of winter, the 16th December. Imagine holding an auction sale of 15,000 acres of land in Manitoba in the middle of the Manitoba

winter, with the ground covered with snow, and nobody able to see the land. It is a most ridiculous proposition.

Mr. HENDERSON. Coon coats were in order.

Mr. BRADBURY. Yes, every man of them there was in a Coon coat. I quote the following from the proceedings of this House:

Mr. STAPLES. Will the minister advise us how long these lands were advertised and in what papers?

Mr. OLIVER. I am informed the sale was advertised in the Toronto 'Globe,' the Winnipeg 'Free Press' and the Selkirk paper, and the advertisement was continued for a period of from four to six weeks.

Another misleading statement. That land was advertised for just six days, and not six weeks in the Toronto 'Globe,' and in the Winnipeg 'Free Press.' The Toronto 'Globe,' advertisement ran from the 23rd of November to the 28th of November, and between the 28th of November, and the 16th of December not a word was said about the sale. The advertisement was published in the Winnipeg 'Free Press,' on the same dates. In the face of this can any honest man argue that there was any attempt to secure a reasonable or fair price for these lands. Does not the whole transaction on the face of it demonstrate that it was arranged that these lands should fall into the hands of a few men who were on the ground ready to buy. The fact is that of the 15,000 acres of this land sold, every acre with the exception of 1,015 acres went to the six men who were buying the Indian lands. There has been a question between the minister and myself as to the value of these lands, and an effort has been made to show that this was poor land. I have taken some trouble to ascertain the facts, and I shall lay before the House. I quote from 'Hansard':

Mr. SCHAFFNER. Does the minister undertake to say that he considers \$6 a fair price for the land?

The minister was arguing that these lands had been auctioned, and realized \$6 an acre—he was near it, they realized \$5.58.

Mr. OLIVER. Yes, I think that any land advertised in the public press for a reasonable time and offered for sale within a distance of 25 miles of the city of Winnipeg is absolutely certain to bring its full value at that particular time.

See how careful the minister is. I agree that if the land was sold at a reasonable time and advertised fairly it would bring its price, but when it was sold in the middle of winter it was not sold at a reasonable time. As I have said these lands are

situated on the Red river which passes through the heart of the reserve, and the banks of which are ten or fifteen feet high, and eighty-five per cent of the land is what is called first-class. It is a perfect garden. We boast of that land in the Red River valley as the best land in Manitoba, and still there are men who are trying to decry it for their own purposes. To show what these lands were worth I quote from the report of the Indian agent John Semmons:

St. Peter's reserve has some of the best land in the province of Manitoba. It has the advantage of being very near to an excellent market; it also has the best shelter from the north and west winds offered to any locality. It is safe to say that properly cultivated it might produce hundreds of thousands of bushels of wheat per year.

John Semmons again says:

One seldom sees even in this wondrous west better wheat-growing land than can be found in this agency.

Chief Justice Howell in his report says:

This reserve is in the main excellent farm land and the adjoining lands are fairly well settled and cultivated and the town of Selkirk adjoins it on the south side. Nearly all the Indian land is good.

When this discussion came up first I wrote to the municipal clerk at St. Andrews in the municipality this land is situated in, and I asked him to give me a statement as to the assessment of this land, and as to the value of the land, and he writes me and gives me two pieces of information. The first was this: That the Indian Department that has given this land away for less than one-third of its value, when they were approached in 1906 by the municipality of St. Andrews for the purpose of purchasing a right of way through the reserve that was going to be as much accommodation to the Indian reserve as it was to the Clandeboy district, the department sold 40 acres of this land to the municipality at \$20 an acre and a cheque was made out payable to Mr. Laird, and endorsed by Mr. J. O. Lewis for \$813.60. I have another piece of information signed by John McDougall who is clerk of the municipality of St. Andrews in which the greater portion of the reserve is situated;

I have your letter of the 23rd inst., respecting valuation of land in that part of the Indian reserve within this municipality and beg to say that the assessment roll for 1909 in which these lands first appeared as taxable shows a flat rate of \$7 per acre and is based on a 33 1/3 per cent valuation. As to particulars I would refer to A. C. Clare, P.O., who is the regular assessor.

Showing that according to this man's valuation the land is worth \$21 an acre. Here is a letter from the assessor:

St. Andrews, Manitoba, January 6, 1910.  
Geo. H. Bradbury, M.P.,  
Government Buildings, Ottawa.

Dear Sir,—With respect to your inquiry about the value of St. Peter's lands, I might say that in 1909 I assessed these lands at \$7 per acre, which is on a basis of one-third of their real value and which is a flat rate all through the municipality. The reason that they are not assessed at their value is on account of the Drainage Act which will not allow the assessor to raise the value on land inside the drainage district, and as a large percentage of the municipality is composed of reclaimed lands which are now settled on we consider it an injustice to assess the other portions at their real value when we are not allowed to raise the assessment in the drainage district, which was formed fifteen or sixteen years ago, and were then assessed at \$2.50 per acre.

Hence the reason for assessing the lands at one-third of its real value.

I might say with respect to the value of the land on St. Peter's reserve, that at \$20 per acre it was the cheapest good land between Lake Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains in 1909.

Yours truly,

A. C. CLARE,

Assessor for 1909, municipality of St. Andrews.

Some of this land was in the precincts of the town of Selkirk. A piece of the land which the Indian agent, J. O. Lewis, bought from that unfortunate woman at \$5 an acre was assessed for \$50 an acre in the town of Selkirk. Here are some other assessments: Lot 1, 61 acres at \$25 per acre; lot 2, 18 acres at \$25 per acre; lot 5, 15 acres at \$40 per acre; lot 5, 33 acres at \$20 per acre; lot 6, 11 1/2 acres at \$25 per acre; lot 8, 18 acres at \$20 per acre.

Lot 14—a piece of this land was put up for sale only a few months ago and \$22 an acre was refused for it. There surely is no other evidence required to show that these lands, which the government have given away to their friends for about \$5 per acre, for less than one-third, I think less than one-fourth of their actual value, are worth at least from \$20 to \$25 an acre. If the government had been anxious to carry out the policy of which it boasts in this House and of which every member boasts throughout the great west, the land for the settler and not for the speculator, they had a grand opportunity here. We had 48,000 acres of the best land in the province of Manitoba, with 2,000 or 3,000 settlers land-hungry in my own constituency; we had 2,000 Ruthenians, Poles and Germans living on land west of Lake Winnipeg, where they had to wade in water to their waists to get to their homes at certain times of the year. The government have placed these people on land

where it is utterly impossible for them to make a living, while we had these magnificent areas. 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 Tieklo bought 10 acres at \$50 per acre; Kaprijan Wawrynice, 10 acres; Wisiniowrki, 10 acres; Hornecki, 10 acres; Stephen Kolba, 10 acres; Myuak, 10 acres; Zirriezni, 10 acres; Stephen Bubvk, 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 Gimii, 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

that was going to live. I have to consider my future grandchildren and the band that I represent.

I further declare that I was so anxious about this matter that the next morning after the meeting at which the chief had made this declaration I went to his house and said to him, calling him grandfather as I always do, you stated in the meeting last night that you would never agree to the surrender of the reserve. I have come to you now to have you repeat that to me, and he said, 'Grandson as he usually called me, 'I did state that at the meeting, and I state it now, that I will never agree to the surrender of the reserve.' I told him then that the reason I was so anxious that I was doubtful of the council but not of him.

After this occurrence myself and the band who were anxious to retain the reserve felt easy that there was no danger of the chief yielding to the influences that were working to secure the surrender, but after some little time I learned that there were private meetings being held in Selkirk unknown to the band, with parties interested in securing the surrender of the reserve. Almost immediately after these private meetings a notice was posted informing the band that a further meeting would be held for the purpose of considering the surrender. This notice was signed by the chief. I declare that this came with great surprise to me and to the band after the public declarations and private promises made by the chief.

The meeting was held in an old schoolhouse on the reserve, too small to hold more than half of those present. Those present representing the government were Chief Justice Howell, Frank Pedley, Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, S. J. Jackson, M.P., E. Rayner, of Selkirk, John Semmons, Inspector of Indian agencies, J. O. Lewis, Indian agent, and Dr. Grain.

When the meeting was called to order, Frank Pedley was selected to take the chair, and I was called in from the outside and requested by one of the gentlemen to act as interpreter. This I declined to do stating that I wanted a free hand, but William H. Prince, one of the councillors, acted as interpreter, and interpreted parts of the proceedings.

As soon as Mr. Pedley took the chair, I immediately stepped forward and asked if this was a public meeting. The chairman said certainly. Then, I said, it was free for every one to express his opinion on the subject before the meeting, and Mr. Pedley replied, certainly. Mr. Pedley started to explain the condition of the surrender, informing the meeting that he was sent there by the government to arrange for the surrender of the reserve. Mr. Pedley explained to the meeting what the government was willing to do if we would agree to surrender the reserve. One proposition he made was that the chief would receive 180 acres of land, and each councillor 120, and each Indian would receive only 16 acres of land. I immediately demanded the reason why the chief and council should receive more land than the ordinary Indian. Mr. Pedley replied that they were getting the extra land for their recognition. I then stated the only recognition they had was the coat they wore and the extra money

they receive annually. I also stated that they were not entitled to one acre more land than the ordinary Indian would receive, but as the agreement of surrender was already prepared there was no change made at the time.

I further declare that at least two-thirds of the Indians present did not understand the conditions as stated by Mr. Pedley. I, understanding the English language, did most of the talking against the surrender of the reserve and after talking several hours back and forward I demanded that a vote be taken. At this time there was no question that a large majority of the band that were present were against the surrender, and expressed themselves loudly at times to this effect. Mr. Pedley and the council and others interested refused to allow the vote to be taken that night and the meeting was adjourned until ten o'clock the next day at the same place.

At ten o'clock next morning the meeting was again opened by the same parties representing the government present. I was surprised to find that some of those who had supported me strongly against the surrender the day before had been changed during the night. What caused the change, God only knows, I don't. But after a great deal of talk we adjourned to have lunch. I was invited by W. D. Harper, councillor to have lunch with him at his house. After lunch, sitting in the room with others, Harper slipped a piece of paper into my hand with the following words written in lead pencil by himself to this effect: 'What would you think if you were to be made equal to a councillor,' meaning of course that I would get as much land as a councillor if I would agree to the surrender. I stated that I could not possibly agree. Before going into lunch, James Williams, councillor, came up and giving me a nudge whispered 'Go and see Chief Justice Howell.' I replied 'No, I would not go near him.' After coming out of Harper's house somebody approached me and told me that Mr. Jackson the member wanted to see me, and I said I did not want to see him, but after awhile Mr. Jackson edged his way into the crowd where I was standing and pulling my coat indicating that he wanted me to step out of the crowd. I did so with him, then he said to me: Mr. Asham, you are strongly opposed to the surrender. I said, yes. Then he said, what would you think if we were to make you equal with the council and stated I will promise you to obtain a patent for the land in about six weeks. To this I replied that I could not possibly agree. I declare that if I had have agreed I would have felt that I would be accepting a bribe to desert my friends who were protesting against the surrender.

Now, soon after this, we were in the heat of a hot discussion in the matter regarding the surrender. Mr. Pedley during his speech at this time said I have \$5,000 here, pointing to a satchel at his side. If you agree to this surrender this money will be distributed among you, but if you don't agree to the surrender, I will take my satchel and go home and you won't get a cent. Then we were told the time had come to take a vote. Up to this time fully half of the band present had not been able to get into the building, and did not hear what had taken place. The building being too small to take the vote in,

we were asked to go outside. Then Mr. John Semmons, the inspector of Indian agencies, spoke loudly in Cree, saying, 'All you that want \$90 go to this side,' indicating where the chief and council were standing, 'the others go to the opposite side.' The crowd separated under great excitement, a great many not knowing what they were doing. After they were separated, some of them moving from one side to the other, not knowing what they were doing. Mr. Semmons and myself started to count the votes that were against, but when we got through counting we turned round to count the other side. I was told then that the other side was counted. I did not know who counted the other side, and they claimed they had a majority of seven. I was astonished to hear this, and sized up the two sides and satisfied myself that there were a larger number standing on my side than there was with the chief and council, but I had no opportunity whatever of counting the number that stood with the chief and council. I protested to Mr. Semmons, saying to him that he should not have said that you who want \$90 go on one side, but you should have said you that want to surrender the reserve go to one side, and you that don't want to surrender the reserve go to the other side, then the people would have understood what they were voting for.

I declare that I consider the vote irregular and improper as it was not stated fairly to the people, nor was it fairly counted as it was counted by different parties. When Mr. Pedley read the surrender that he had with him prepared he read it in English, and fast, that even I, who understood English, found it difficult to understand the terms of the surrender. This was not interpreted to the band in their own language, consequently very few, if any, understood the conditions of the surrender. I am satisfied that Mr. Pedley and the others came determined to secure the surrender. The surrender was all prepared without any consultation with the band, and they brought the \$5,000 with them. Without this money on the ground I am satisfied they never could have secured the support they did in favour of the surrender.

Immediately after the vote was taken, the treaty was signed, and they commenced paying the money out. The chief and councillors were paid first. Then, as I was made equal with the council, this being done after they had declared the surrender carried, they paid me the same as an ordinary Indian, although they had stated that I had to be made equal to the council. I asked Mr. Pedley why they did not pay me the same money as the council, as you have made me equal to the council. He stated that he was willing, but that I had better see the chief. I saw the chief and he was willing, but it now being late he asked me to come the next day. I came the next day, and after waiting for a while I asked the chief for the balance of my money, and he said he was very sorry that the council would not agree. But I did get the same amount of land. No doubt this land was given me to satisfy me with what had been done, but I have never ceased to protest against what I consider to be an outrage and the disinheriting the Indians and sacrificing my birthright.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing it to be of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.

(Signed) WILLIAM ASHAM.

Declared before me at the town of Selkirk, in the province of Manitoba, this 20th day of December, A.D. 1909.

C. R. SMALLMAN,  
Commissioner.

Well, some one will say this is only an Indian. True, but he is one of the brightest and most intelligent Indians I have met. And, as showing his credibility, I have a letter here from the Bishop of Moosomin, which I will read:

Selkirk, Man., December 22, 1909.

Geo. H. Bradbury, Esq., M.P.

Dear Sir,—This is to certify that I have known Mr. William Asham for over 19 years as Incumbent of St. Peter's parish. I was associated with him in the work of the church for nearly 19 years, and I can bear testimony to the fidelity and probity of his life. He was always a staunch supporter of the truth and was never afraid to express his opinions and convictions on the side of honesty and righteousness.

I therefore have the greatest pleasure in introducing him to you as one whose word is always reliable, and whose influence is used for worthy and upright ends.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

JOHN G. ANDERSON,  
Bishop of Moosomin.

There can be no question as to the credibility of this man. I have other declarations here corroborating Asham's statement, and I will place this one also on record:

Dominion of Canada, Province of Manitoba.

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

To Wit:

I, John Flett, of the parish of St. Peter's, in the province of Manitoba, Indian, do solemnly declare that I am a member of St. Peter's Band of Indians. I never made an application for my patent, although the same has been issued and duly received by me. I was present on the days when the terms of surrender were being discussed in the school house in St. Peter's reserve. I heard Mr. Frank Pedley say that if we agreed to the surrender it would not interfere with our usual election for a chief and councillors, which should have taken place on July 4, 1908, but which up to the present time has been refused by the Indian Department. The band has no confidence in the present chief and his councillors, who, I believe betrayed us to the officials and to the men who have secured our lands by a misrepresentation in leading the Indians to believe that any money paid to them in the first instance was simply as a loan and that a proper bargain would be made with them when their patents

were issued. I declare that councillor Williams told William Asham and others in my presence, that the chief had received a present of a team of horses worth \$250 from William Frank, and that the councillors were promised \$100 each for helping Mr. Frank to secure the land from the Indians. In addition to this they were to receive \$2 per day for helping to get the land by bringing the Indians to the office and getting them to agree to dispose of their lands to Mr. Frank.

I heard Mr. Frank Pedley say to the Indians a short time before the vote was taken at St. Peter's, that he had \$5,000 in his bag, pointing to it at his side, and he also said if you vote for the surrender I will divide it among you at once. If you do not, I will take my bag and go home, and you will not get a cent. In my opinion this statement influenced many of the Indians to vote with the chief and councillors that day. Just as the vote was going to be taken, I heard Mr. John Semmons, Inspector of Indian agencies, state loudly in the Cree language to the Indians present: All of you who want \$90 go to that side, indicating with his arm where the chief and councillors were standing. I am satisfied that these two statements, the one by Mr. Frank Pedley, and the other by Mr. John Semmons, influenced many to go on the side with the chief. The majority of the Indians did not know that they were voting to surrender their homes, as I am sure they did not wish to do. They were not asked the question: You that are in favour of surrendering the reserve, go to that side. Many did not realize that the vote was whether or not they should surrender the reserve. I am satisfied that if the question had been stated fairly, even in the face of the bribe offered, that is the dividing of the \$5,000 mentioned by Mr. Frank Pedley among the band, if they voted to surrender, and the further statement of Mr. John Semmons: All of you who want \$90, go to that side, the Indians would never have voted with the chief and councillors if they had understood that it meant the giving up of their lands and homes where they had been born and where this band had lived for generations.

I declare most solemnly that I understand the English language fairly well, and understood most of what I heard during the negotiations for the surrender. The band at no time was in favour of it. It was in my opinion secured by trickery, and the change in the chief's views, he having pledged himself again and again publicly against and surrender of our lands. The terms of surrender were not even interpreted to the band. Fully one half could not hear what was taking place in the schoolhouse, as they could not get in, and of those who were in many did not understand, as the proceedings were not interpreted to them. I now feel that there was collusion between the officials and the land buyers to take our homes from us, and that the Indians have been badly cheated, first in the manner in which the surrender was secured, and again by the land buyers who have taken our lands at less than one-third of the amount we expected to receive for the same.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously, believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as

if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act, 1939.

JOHN FLETT.

Declared before me at the parish of St. Peter's, in the province of Manitoba, this 30th day of December, A.D. 1909.

ROBERT G. McDONALD,  
Commissioner.

I have a declaration here which I think I should place on record, the testimony of Fred. Cameron. It reads:

Dominion of Canada, Province of Manitoba.  
In the matter of St. Peter's Indian Reserve and the sale and disposal of the Indian lands in said reserve.

To Wit:

I, Fred Cameron, of the parish of St. Peter's in the province of Manitoba, Indian, do solemnly declare, that:

I am a member of St. Peter's band of Indians, and as such was entitled to 128 acres of land, 16 acres for myself, 16 acres for my wife and 16 acres each for my six children under the terms of surrender effected on September 24, 1907.

I never made a selection of my allotment of land, I never signed an application for my patent, but on or about the 20th day of December, 1908, while in Selkirk, Pete Sutherland met me and said, Fred, your patent is at the Indian office, and I went there, got it and signed a receipt for same. Prior to the time of the surrender there were public meetings held by the band, and at each meeting our chief and councillors with the exception of councillor W. H. Prince told the band over and over again that they would not surrender their reserve under any consideration. The chief went on to say that he was offered enough if he would surrender that he would be well off all the days of his life, and in fact I would be a gentleman if I were to accept it.

The band were left with the impression after these statements at the public meetings that their chief and councillors would never surrender our reserve. On the 23rd September, 1907, negotiations were begun with the band for the surrender, and the band then knew that their chief and councillors had changed their views and were in favour of surrendering our reserve.

On the 24th September, 1907, I heard Mr. Frank Pedley, Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, Ottawa, tell the band that he had \$5,000 in his satchel, and if you surrender, the money will be distributed among the band, if not, I will take my bag and go home.

A few minutes before the vote for surrender, Mr. John Semmons, Inspector of Indian Agencies, Frank Pedley and Samuel J. Jackson, were standing together. Mr. Semmons beckoned to me and said, Come here, Fred. I went over to them, and Mr. Semmons then said, are you on our side? I said, no. He said, you had better surrender, Fred, and you will be well off. He then asked me what family I had. I told him I had eight of a family. He pulled out a small pass book from his pocket and commenced figuring, and after a little said, you will get \$34.40, and besides you will get your 16 acres per head. He

kept on figuring and said. You will get 128 acres, and also you will get \$90 per head next year. This will come to over \$700. After telling me all this, he said will you surrender? and I said no. A short time after this conversation the vote took place. We were separated, those for and those against the surrender. And I believe quite a number did not understand or quite realize what they were doing, as many of the Indians were going backwards and forwards from one side to the other. The vote for surrender was not taken according to our usual custom, and I believe the same to have been both irregular and improper. During the negotiations, Mr. Henry Hope asked Mr. Frank Pedley if the surrender was carried, will it interfere with our usual election for a chief and councillors. Mr. Pedley said, no.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.

FRED CAMERON.

Declared before me at the parish of St. Peter's, in the province of Manitoba, this 4th day of January, 1910.

R. G. McDONALD,  
Commissioner.

I have here a short declaration from a man whom the department employed as interpreter during the time, Mr. Williams, law clerk of the department was making a private investigation in St. Peter's at the instance of the minister. That declaration reads:

Canada, Province of Manitoba.

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

To Wit:

I, William Sinclair of the parish of St. Peter's, in the province of Manitoba, do solemnly declare that:

I am a member of the St. Peter's band of Indians, and that I was present at the time of the surrender of the St. Peter's reserve, and declare that when the vote was just about to be taken to decide whether the reserve should be surrendered or not, I heard John Semmons, Inspector of Indian Agencies, make a short speech in the Cree language, and said to all those present, that those wanting the \$90 to go go over there, indicating the place where they should stand who favoured the surrender.

I further declare that I heard Mr. Pedley say that he had \$5,000 in his satchel which he would divide among the Indians providing they would make a surrender of the reserve. If not, he would take the money back.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of the Canada Evidence Act.

WILLIAM SINCLAIR.

Declared before me at the town of Selkirk, in the province of Manitoba, this 22nd day of January, 1910.

C. P. SMALLMAN,  
Commissioner.

These are all bright, intelligent men, who talk the English language as well as I do. The last man, Sinclair, is a very clever fellow, from whose conversation you would never know that he is an Indian.

In view of all these facts which I have laid before the House, the fact that the chief and the councillors were bribed to agree to the surrender, the fact that they then became active agents of the officials who engineered the surrender, the fact that after the surrender the same men became the paid agents of the men who were securing the Indian allotments, and that the poor Indian was deceived by these men into disposing of his lands for less than one-third of their actual value, the fact that the Indian agent at Selkirk was himself a party to the deception, the fact that the terms of the surrender were all arranged at private meetings in Selkirk between the government agent and the chief and councillors who had first been bribed to attend such a meeting and to agree to the surrender unknown to their band, the further fact that the surrender was conducted irregularly and entirely by government officials and other interested parties, the fact that at the meeting of the band to discuss the surrender was sprung on the band at one day's notice, the fact that less than three-fourths of those entitled to vote were present at the meeting, the fact that the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs offered the band \$5,000 if they voted for the surrender, the fact that John Semmons, Indian Inspector, offered \$90 each if they voted for the surrender, the fact that at least 20 per cent of those qualified to vote, all young men the backbone of the band, were absent working and had no notification of the said meeting, and consequently were not present, the fact that the Indian Act and common sense require a majority of the male members, 21 years and over, to agree to a surrender, and that in this case less than 38 per cent of the qualified voters voted in favour of the surrender, and the fact that in face of all of these scandalous facts, the government were only able to secure, out of some 200 voters present, seven of a majority shows, Mr. Speaker, how thoroughly unpopular the surrender was.

These and other facts compel me to say that this whole transaction is a disgrace to the government responsible, and that to my mind illegal and would not stand the test of a properly constituted court in Canada.

In view of these facts which I have tried to lay before this House fairly and impartially, I beg to move:

That all the words after the word 'that' in the proposed motion be struck out and the following substituted therefor:—

The government of Canada is the guardian and trustee of the Indians and is bound to



conserve their estate and property, not only against the rapacious designs of other persons, but also against the known improvidence and business incapacity of the Indians themselves.

That the government ought not to permit any part of such estate and property to become the prey of speculators at a price far below its value, but should observe and enforce all precautions and safeguards which are necessary to preserve to the Indians the full value and benefit of their property and to prevent it from being wasted and dissipated.

That in respect of such matters the government should administer the affairs of the Indians as a trust and should not permit any person to make an unjust profit at the expense of those whom it is the duty of the government to protect.

That this House desire to place on record its strong condemnation of the methods by which the government secured the surrender of the St. Peter's Indian reserve near Selkirk, in the province of Manitoba, and its equally strong condemnation of the failure of the government to safeguard the interests of the Indians in the disposal of the land so surrendered.

WEDNESDAY, April 20, 1910.

#### QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE—ST. PETER'S INDIAN RESERVE.

Mr. BRADBURY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak to a question of privilege. A few evenings ago, when I had the honour of addressing the House on the surrender of St. Peter's Reserve, I stated that an account had been rendered by one E. Rayner, who claimed that his work was to have cost something like \$500, and when the account was rendered to the Department of Indian Affairs, the department refused to pay it. I pointed out that this money had been paid, and I suggested that the extra land that had been given to the chief and councillors had been used for that purpose. This was the only part of the serious charges which I brought before the House against the department that the hon. Minister of the Interior, in his three hours speech replying to me, attempted to refute. In that attempt he denied the accuracy of my statement in regard to the extra land which the chief and the councillors had received, and in doing so quoted what I understood him to say were the official figures from his department, and he asked the House to accept them rather than the statement made by myself. The facts, Mr. Speaker, which I intend to lay before the House are shown by a sworn return of J. O. Lewis, an Indian agent at Selkirk, which I have here of the payments to the Indians of the \$5,000 which the deputy superintendent general of In-

dian Affairs, Mr. Pedley, had promised them if they voted for the surrender. This return gives the names of each man of the band and the number of his children and the amounts the different Indians received of this \$5,000. So that there can be no doubt that each family was fully represented under the head of such family, and the head of such families was there to make the family look as large and numerous as possible, so that his share of the \$5,000 would be as great as possible. This I am sure will not be questioned by any hon. member of this House. Then Mr. Speaker, this pay roll which I hold in my hand shows beyond any doubt the number of children each councillor and the chief had. I will now read to the House the headings under which the members of the family are accounted for. I will also read the declaration attached to this pay roll. I have, Mr. Speaker, in my hands the pay roll for the distribution of the \$5,000 that Mr. Pedley took to St. Peter's Indian reserve and distributed among the Indians after they agreed to the surrender and it is headed in this way:

Treaty No. 1. St. Peter's Band, paid at St. Peter's Reserve, September 23, 1907. Land Fund.

The different headings follow. It is made out in regular form showing how many men, women and children there were. It starts with men, women, boys, girls, males and females. We will take just one of these men in question. We will take the chief, Wm. Prince. According to this sworn return we find that he had just himself and his wife. He received \$18.60 out of that fund. That money was paid by Mr. Pedley himself according to the book. Wm. Henry Prince according to this sworn return had two of a family, and got \$14.60 and that was paid by Mr. Pedley. Each of the councillors received their money directly from the hands of Mr. Pedley. Now what I rose in my place this morning to correct was the statement made by the hon. minister denying my statement that the chief and the councillors had received more lands than they were legally entitled to under the surrender. The hon. gentleman denied that fact and he says, and I am quoting from 'Hansard' of the 14th:

My hon. friend explained that Mr. Rayner had got back the extra money that he had paid to the Indians, because the chiefs had got a certain proportion more land than they were entitled to under the terms of the surrender. That is to say that Chief William Prince got 20 acres more, and the several councillors a certain number of acres more, in the neighbourhood of 20 apiece over and above what the terms of surrender called for. Chief William Prince was entitled to 212 acres by reason of his extra allowance as chief, and by reason of the number of members in his family, and he received actually 215.53,

that is 3½ acres more than his allowance. Councillor Harper was entitled to 232 acres, and he got 233-16. Councillor James was entitled to 200 acres, and he got 206-88. Councillor Henry Prince was entitled to 168 acres, and he got 172-50. John Prince was entitled to 136 acres, and he got 136 acres. The explanation is that in the laying out of the lands when the survey was made, the lots ran into one or two acres more than the allowance called for, and the block was allowed to go as it was surveyed. My hon. friend stated last night that these people received in the neighbourhood of 20 acres at least more than they were entitled to, and that this extra allowance of land was in some way, which he did not explain, used to repay Rayner the money that he said it was rumoured had been paid to the Indians.

Mr. BRADBURY. The minister has given the amount of acreage. I would like him to tell the House how many of a family each man had.

Mr. OLIVER. Chief William Prince had two of a family, Councillor Harper seven, James William five, Henry Prince three, and John Prince one. My hon. friend said last night that these men got about an average of 20 acres apiece more than they were entitled to. The figures I have given the House are the figures given to me by the officers of the department, and I am sure my hon. friend will pardon me if I say I am rather willing to accept their figures than the figures he has given, and that I ask the House to do the same.

Mr. SPEAKER. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but a question of personal explanation according to Bourinot, must be confined purely and simply to personal explanation of the language used. I could read the authority, but I suppose it is hardly necessary. The hon. member cannot return to the debate on the St. Peter's Indian Reserve for the minister could not speak at this point so the hon. member will confine himself strictly to his personal explanation.

Mr. BRADBURY. I am nearly finished. It is absolutely necessary that I should state these facts to the House before I can make a proper explanation. What I wanted to point out, Mr. Speaker, on my responsibility as a member of this House, was that this actually gives a correct statement as to the families of the chief and councillors, and this fact is sworn to by J. O. Lewis, Indian agent. Now let us see—

Mr. FIELDING. I really submit to my hon. friend that he should not persist further in the light of the Speaker's ruling. What he means to say is that he has a difference with the Minister of the Interior, and he is trying to make a case out against him. I might have a difference with an hon. member opposite in a matter discussed some days ago, but surely I could not be allowed under a personal explanation to revive the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER. I may read what Bourinot says on the matter:

There are certain cases where the House will permit a member who has already spoken to a question to make some further remarks by the way of explanation before the debate finally closes. For instance, when a member conceives himself to have been misunderstood in some material part of his speech, he is invariably allowed through the indulgence of the House to explain with respect to the part so misunderstood, and this privilege of explanation is permitted without leave being actually asked from the House. But such explanation must be confined to a statement of the words actually used when a member's language is misquoted or misconceived or to a statement of the meaning of his language when it has been misunderstood by the House; for the Speaker will call him to order the moment he goes beyond that explanation and replies to the remarks of members in the debate.

Mr. SPROULE. I respectfully submit this, that the hon. member (Mr. Bradbury) made a statement to this House which was denied and he is endeavouring to explain the grounds upon which he made that statement and if necessary he is prepared to quote from official documents upon which he grounded his statement. That is justification for an explanation. Further I would think it would properly be a matter of privilege and quite within his rights to do what he proposes. He is not dealing with any other one who took part in the debate except the one who contradicted his statement.

Mr. FIELDING. I might have had a discussion with my hon. friend some weeks ago and the hon. gentleman might have contradicted something I said. Would I be at liberty under cover of personal explanation to revive that discussion? I do not think so. I do not wish to press the point, but I am afraid that we shall lose the order of the House.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I recollect one occasion when the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) did the very thing which he says now cannot be done.

Mr. FIELDING. What was it?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. During a controversy which the hon. member (Mr. Fielding) had with Sir Charles Tupper in this House. He came into the House afterwards with a letter from Mr. H. M. Whitney. I think it was, intended to corroborate his statement of the case, and introduced it into the debate, doing exactly the thing he says should not be done.

Mr. FIELDING. I think the hon. member's (Mr. R. L. Borden) case is not happily chosen. Speaking from memory. I may not state the facts exactly, but my recollection is that the discussion referred to arose on a tariff or fiscal measure. And,

when, at a later stage, on a new motion, the subject was again before the House, I referred to the letter spoken of. But I did not, on a question of privilege, undertake to do anything of that sort. I think that my hon. friend, if he will consult the record, will find that he is mistaken.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The procedure may have been as the hon. minister states; I have not a sufficiently clear recollection of the case to contradict him. By my recollection is that he was not corrected in the course he took. My hon. friend from Selkirk (Mr. Bradbury), I take it, could again bring up the whole matter on motion to go into supply.

Mr. FIELDING. Certainly.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I do not see any reason why he should be driven to that. He has only a short explanation to make, as I understand it, endeavouring to put himself right on a matter in which he conceives himself to have been misrepresented.

Mr. FIELDING. But he is assailing another member.

Mr. BRADBURY. I have no desire to infringe on the rules of the House. But the Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) criticised the statement I made the other night in language which calls for some explanation from myself. He characterized my statement thus :

May I add my humble appreciation by saying that I believe never, since this chamber was erected, has there been delivered in its walls such a persistent and sustained tirade of unwarranted assertion, of unwarranted insinuation, a tirade that, in its gratuitous inexactitude, is an offence against the privilege of parliament and an insult to its intelligence.

Now I hold that, as a member of this House, I have some rights here. I have a right to justify what I said in the House.

Mr. FIELDING. With the hon. member's permission, I would respectfully suggest that he is endeavouring to justify himself in a matter arising out of a previous debate. Unless there is some thing in which he has been misrepresented or something of that kind—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. FIELDING. No, the hon. member has not a right to proceed in this way on a question of privilege. His statement must be confined to a personal explanation. The hon. member must see that his speech will challenge a reply—

Mr. BRADBURY. No.

Mr. FIELDING. Then the hon. member wants to have it one-sided. Unless that is his wish, I have only to point out that

what he says is likely to challenge a reply, and so we lose the order of the House.

Mr. BRADBURY. I am simply making a statement correcting what the minister (Mr. Oliver) said in regard to the statement I made before. He said that when I stated that the chief and councilmen had received more land than they were entitled to, I stated that which was not in accord with the facts. I have laid before this House this return which is sworn to by the Indian agent, which is absolutely correct and proves the correctness of my statement and the incorrectness of the minister's explanation.

Mr. FISHER. If I may be permitted to interrupt, the hon. member (Mr. Bradbury) says he has a right on a question of privilege to justify a statement he made in a former debate. I ask your ruling, Mr. Speaker, on the question whether the hon. member can do that on a question of privilege. As I understand it, he has a right to correct a statement of his own or to make a personal explanation, but not to justify his former argument. The hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) has pointed out that the hon. member for Selkirk will have an opportunity, on going into supply, to bring up this question. That is perfectly right. And the only objection to his bringing it up now is that he is violating the rules of the House and indulging in a procedure which has been, I regret to say, somewhat abused.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. The hon. member has risen—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) has the floor.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. I rise to a point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. I am speaking on the question of order.

Mr. FISHER. The hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. J. A. Currie) desires to interrupt me, but I claim to be heard as I have the floor.

Mr. J. A. CURRIE. Mr. Speaker, the hon. member (Mr. Fisher) cannot speak on a question of privilege for the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Bradbury) has the floor on that question. He (Mr. Fisher) can only speak on a point of order. That is my point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The hon. member for North Simcoe rose to a point of order. The Minister of Agriculture should have taken his seat at once.

Mr. FISHER. If Mr. Speaker says I am out of order, I will sit down.

Mr. SPEAKER. If hon. members will permit me, I would suggest that the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Bradbury) ought to confine himself to a personal explanation. If he is anxious to carry the matter further, he can do so when we go into supply. I think that is the sense of the House.

Mr. BRADBURY. I desire to fall in with the suggestion of the Chair, having no wish to violate the rules of the House. But at present I merely wish to clear myself of the charge made by the minister—

Mr. CONMEE. And reopen the debate.

Mr. BRADBURY. Keep quiet. It will be necessary for me to show exactly how much land these Indians get. I can do that in a few minutes. William Prince, chief—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the hon. member must confine himself to a personal explanation. If he wants further opportunity he will—

Mr. BRADBURY. It is utterly impossible for me to explain the position without submitting the facts I have here. William Prince, chief—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. BRADBURY. —and his wife—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. SPEAKER. I think the hon. gentleman (Mr. Bradbury) had better be allowed to conclude his remarks.

Mr. BRADBURY. Mr. Speaker, I was saying when I was interrupted that Chief William Prince had a wife and on her account he was entitled to 16 acres of land. Under the terms of the treaty he was entitled to 180 acres for himself, a total, 196 acres. Yet according to the minister's statement, he received 215 acres, or 19 acres more than he was entitled to. William H. Prince, councillor, had a wife, on whose account he was entitled to 16 acres. He himself was entitled to 120 acres, or a total of 136 acres. According to the statement of the minister, he received 172½ acres, or 36½ acres more than he was entitled to under the treaty. John Prince, councillor, had no wife, and was entitled to 120 acres. He received 136 acres, or 16

more than he was entitled to under the treaty. James Williams, councillor, had a wife and three children, on whose account he was entitled to 64 acres, together with 120 of his own account, a total of 184 acres. But he received, according to the minister's statement, 206½ acres, or 22½ acres more than he was entitled to. William Harper, councillor, was according to this sworn return, entitled to 16 acres on account of his wife, and 16 for one child. I may say in passing that the man had no wife; his wife was dead, and 120 acres for himself, he was entitled under his claim to only 152 acres. He received, according to the minister's statement, 232½ acres or 80½ acres more than he was entitled to. In these extra allotments four men received, not a hundred acres, as I stated to the House before. I was too moderate, for they did receive 174 acres more land than they were entitled to under the terms of the surrender, and I am now satisfied that that land supplied the money to pay the chief and council for betraying their band. The facts entirely justify my statement and prove the hon. minister entirely wrong.

Mr. OLIVER. If it is my privilege—

Mr. SPEAKER. The minister can speak on a question of privilege, or give a personal explanation.

Mr. OLIVER. I have no explanation to make, but my hon. friend has seen fit to revive a discussion which took place the other day, and it seems to me that if he wished to revive it he had much better have done it when the estimates were under discussion and when all these questions could be threshed out. If I am privileged, however, to continue this discussion—

Mr. SPEAKER. Under the circumstances the minister would do better to let the question stand, unless he wishes to avail himself of his right to give a personal explanation.

Mr. OLIVER. I have nothing to explain, and nothing to apologize for. I do not wish to break the rules of the House for the purpose of keeping up a discussion which, it seems to me, occupied as much time of this House the other day as was fairly warranted under the circumstances; and unless my hon. friend can find some new matter to bring to the attention of the House on this occasion, I would suggest to him that he be merciful, even if he is strong.