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Indian Administration in the  
North West

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The Facts Respecting . . .  
 • Indian Administration .  
 . . In the North-West.

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"Every breach of veracity indicates some latent vice or some criminal intention which the individual is ashamed to own."—Dugald Stewart.





THE FACTS  
RESPECTING  
INDIAN ADMINISTRATION  
IN THE NORTH-WEST.

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ON the 15th of April last, in his place in the House of Commons, Mr. M. C. Cameron, of West Huron, essayed a consideration of the Dominion Government's administration of Indian affairs in the North-west. It was quite proper that he should do so. It was his privilege to discuss that question or any other public question if he choose: it became his duty to discuss it if he believed the public interest would thereby be served; for an opposition Member of Parliament is not without responsibility for the legislation of the country, or for the administrative acts of the Government. If he cannot influence that legislation or control those acts, it is his duty to offer counsel respecting them and to enter public protest against them if he believes them to be unwise or unjust.

The subject of Indian administration is one of great importance. Large sums of public money are expended annually on account of the Indians, and it is proper to inquire whether or not that money has been wisely and honestly expended; it is proper to inquire whether the Government and its officials have dealt justly and prudently by the Indians; and it is still more important to know that the Indians are so justly treated and so firmly controlled that they will not become a menace to white settlers in the North-west. It is very clear, then, that, in rising to debate the question referred to, Mr. Cameron was quite within the line of his duty.

It may be objected—indeed, the objection has been made—that Mr. Cameron was unfortunate in his selection of a time for the delivery of his speech. Sir John Macdonald is Superintendent General of Indian affairs, and is responsible for the Government's administration in the North-west. A man desirous of placing his facts and his reasons before the official directly interested in those facts and reasons, and one desirous to be strictly fair and courteous to the official whose administration he intended to attack, would have made his speech at a time when Sir John Macdonald was present in the House to listen to the criticism and to reply to it if he so desired. The British sense of fair play demands that one comes face to face with his antagonist; and it is a matter of pride among Canadians that in this respect they have lost nothing of the manliness and the fairness cherished by their British ancestors. But at the time selected by Mr. Cameron for the delivery of his assault upon the Government's administration of Indian affairs, Sir John Macdonald was not in the House. He had been seriously ill. He was so far recovered as to have been abroad; and the hope was entertained that in a few days he would be able to attend to his parliamentary duties—a hope fortunately realized. Time was not important to Mr. Cameron. His speech could wait a few days without loss to the country and even without losing any of its effect as a partisan weapon. By hastening to deliver his attack before Sir John's return, Mr. Cameron exposed himself to the unpleasant suspicion that he did not desire to be strictly fair—that he did not wish to meet his opponent face to face—that he desired to deliver his thrust at a moment when no return was possible. Such a course gives one a higher opinion of Mr. Cameron's adroitness than of his courage or his fairness, and placed that gentleman in an unfavorable light at the very outset.

It must never be forgotten that public questions should be discussed on public grounds. If it was Mr. Cameron's privilege and duty to discuss this question, it was his duty

to discuss it solely as it affected the Indians themselves and the public. If he imported into his argument either private feelings or party interest he strayed from the path of his duty as a legislator. So long as he kept the interests of the Indians and of the public in view he occupied an unsailable position. His method could not be challenged, nor his motives impeached. If he departed from that public ground—if there is reason to think that he had in mind less the interest of the Indians and of the public than of the party he serves, he placed himself in a most unenviable position. The reader will be left to judge for himself of Mr. Cameron's motive—whether that gentleman was moved, in making the speech in question, by zeal for the public welfare or for the interests of the Reform party.

In opening a discussion of the Indian question Mr. Cameron assumed a grave responsibility. Few of the Indians of the North-west are far removed from the primitive condition on which our fathers found them. They have very imperfect notions of the duties of the Government towards them, and of their claims upon the Government. They desire to get all they can; and they are deeply incensed when they think they have been wronged. The buffalo, formerly their chief support, has wholly failed them. They have suffered in consequence; they have been required to go upon reservations; they see white men settling upon land once wholly theirs; they cannot at once change their natures and acquire habits of application and persevering industry; and it is not difficult to make them believe that white men are solely responsible for all the changes that have come upon them and all the miseries that have overtaken them; or that it is the duty of white men to maintain them in comfort and idleness. A speech like that of Mr. Cameron spread among them will certainly give them exaggerated notions of their rights and of what they believe or may come to believe are their wrongs. And the nature of the Indian is to resent a fancied wrong after a very bloody

fashion. We have ourselves seen the homes of pioneers in flames, settlers murdered, women dragged into horrible captivity and even priests massacred while in the act of administering the last consolations of religion to other victims. That which has been may be again. Certainly one effect of Mr. Cameron's speech will be to inflame the Indians of the North-west against the Government and against the white settlers; and it may be to start again the lurid blaze of savage warfare. If the speech was accurate in its statements and just in its reasoning, Mr. Cameron cannot be held responsible for any possible consequences of it: the responsibility in that case falls upon the Government and upon its officials. But if the statements are not true; if the reasonings are not founded on facts; if the censure and vituperation of the member for West Huron are not justified by the administration of Indian affairs, then Mr. Cameron has not only exposed himself to the charge of violating the truth but endangering the lives of thousands of peaceful settlers and of imperiling the prosperity of the whole North-west. Again the reader will be left to judge for himself whether the facts were or were not such as to warrant Mr. Cameron in assuming so grave a responsibility, possibly involving such frightful consequences.

Mr. Cameron is a man of ability and a lawyer. He is skilled in preparing evidence and has experience in presenting his case. It is fair to assume that he made the best case that could be made against the Government's administration in the North-west. Further it is fair to assume that he would not resort to untruth if the truth would serve his purpose. If evidence existed that the Government or its officers had not done their duty, that the public money had not been judiciously expended, that the Indians had not been justly treated, it is fair to assume that he would not manufacture evidence or distort facts. If he be found to have manufactured evidence or to have distorted facts, it is fair to assume that the truth would not sustain the charges

he made or lead to a belief that the Government's administration of Indian affairs had been unwise, unjust, or corrupt. Again the reader will be left to judge for himself whether Mr. Cameron did or did not make a fair and honest presentation of the case, allege none but facts, and put his testimony before the House and before the country in a strictly impartial manner.

It is reasonable to expect from the Government faithful and even zealous care for the interests of the Indians. The simplicity of these people, their ignorance of business details, their improvidence, and the fact that they have entered upon a change from the condition of nomads to that of civilized men, following industrial pursuits, call for watchful care over them, strict probity in dealing with them, and benevolent solicitude for their welfare and their education. So much the people may reasonably expect from the Government. They may not reasonably expect infallibility on the part of Ministers or of the agents and other officials put in immediate charge over the Indians—officials who carry on their operations at distances of thousands of miles from the seat of Government. The desire of the people of Canada is that the Indians shall be not only justly but generously treated. They certainly have received far more than they were entitled to under their treaties. Let it not be forgotten that with a single exception not one of the treaties stipulates that the Government shall supply the Indians with food. In the exceptional treaty the agreement is to supply food only in case of actual starvation. But the disappearance of the buffalo from the plains created a change in the Indians' condition which forced the Government to supply food to the prairie bands. The hunters could no longer feed themselves, and they had neither knowledge nor habits of steady application which would enable them to support themselves and their families by agriculture. The Government was forced to feed the Indians to save them from starvation. It is highly important that they be taught and

encouraged to raise their own food ; but the change in their habits cannot be effected in a day. The provisions supplied them are so distributed as to encourage industry. Men who absolutely refuse to work are certainly not encouraged in their idleness. They are taught by practical lessons that their comfort will best be secured by efforts on their own part. It is necessary to teach them that lesson ; for if they once acquire the notion that it is the duty of the Government to maintain them they will never attempt to do anything for themselves. But in this effort to encourage them to become self-supporting the Government is placed between two fires of hostile criticism. On the one hand it is charged with wasting the public money in feeding a lot of idle vagabonds. On the other hand, if it stints the rations of the lazy and the thriftless, it is charged with starving the poor Indians. The intentions of the Government in this particular were expressed by Sir John Macdonald in his first report as Superintendent General of Indian affairs (dated April, 1879) as follows :

The rapid disappearance of the buffalo, which is the staple article of food of the Indians and halfbreeds of the Northwest Territories, induces the belief that these people must in a few years be fed at the expense of the country unless they in the meantime acquire some other means of subsistence than the buffalo hunt now affords. In order to enable them to become self-supporting as soon as possible, facilities must be provided by which they may acquire some practical knowledge of agriculture and of the care of stock. They will probably require some small supply of provisions each year while engaged in tilling and sowing their lands. Such assistance, however, should only be extended to those Indians who prove to be in earnest in endeavoring to become self-supporting.

It cannot be denied—it never has been denied—that occasional cases of injustice to the Indians have occurred. While men are fallible and subject to human infirmity they will fall into errors of judgment and lapses from duty. In spite of the utmost vigilance cases have come to the knowledge of the Government calling for regret and for reproof. These occurrences are not peculiar to the present administration. They took place under the Mackenzie Government, and will no doubt continue after the present Government

has passed away. In his report for 1878, Mr. E. McColl, Inspector of Agencies, wrote as follows :

To say that the Indians are entirely satisfied with the manner in which the terms of the several treaties have been carried out would be saying what is inconsistent with their character. To complain is a chronic feature of their nature. I am forced, however, to admit, that the manner treaty stipulations has been observed in this superintendency in the past has given them just ground for complaint. They have been furnished—by no fault of the Government, which paid the price of prime supplies and implements—with inferior and old worn-out cattle, or cattle too wild for working or dairy purposes, and with supplies of all kinds of the most inferior quality, which would not be accepted at any price by the ordinary consumer.

That is the report of an official appointed by Mr. Mackenzie, immediately after that gentleman had retired from office.

But the cases of wrong-doing on the part of the officials and of injustice and hardship to the Indians have been comparatively few. When irregularities have been reported investigation has been held and the injustice, if any, has been remedied. Ministers have earnestly desired that the money appropriated by Parliament for the benefit of the Indians shall be expended with the utmost care for economy, and so as not only to secure to the Indians all their treaty rights, but to protect them from present suffering and so to encourage them in habits of thrift and industry that they may at the earliest possible moment cease to be dependent upon public charity. These benevolent intentions have been carried out, save in the few exceptional cases referred to, with zeal and discretion. As a rule the rights of the Indians have been religiously respected, and their welfare has been in careful and wise hands. It is true that they complain. Mr. McColl, as has been seen, says that “to complain is a chronic feature of their nature.” And there is too much reason to think that they have been encouraged to complain by men who had the interests of the Indians less in view than the political effect of Indian dissatisfaction and even Indian warfare.

One of the first charges which Mr. Cameron brings against the Government is that it dealt unfairly by the Indians at the very outset—that it took advantage of their simplicity and their ignorance of the ways of the world to drive hard bargains in the treaties negotiated with them. He says :

Let me then, first, deal with the kind of officials which this Government placed over the untamed, uneducated, uncivilized, unchristianized wards of the nation, with whom this country was bound to deal honestly and fairly, because Canada induced the Indians of the Northwest to surrender their possessory rights to what is practically an empire for the merest pittance.

Now, will it be believed that every treaty with the North-west Indians was made by the Mackenzie Government? In 1873 a treaty was concluded at the north-west angle of the Lake of the Woods, by officials of the former Conservative administration, with the Salteaux tribe of Ojibbeway Indians inhabiting the western part of Ontario. But in the latter part of that year a change of administration took place, and the control of Indian affairs passed into the hands of the Reform party, where it remained till the end of 1878. Every treaty with the Indians of the North-west was made while that party was in power. So that if it is true that the Indians were wronged, if it is true that advantage was taken of their simplicity, if it is true that they were cheated into relinquishing their "possessory rights" to the soil of the North-west "for the mere pittance," the charge of wrong does not lie against the present Government or against the Conservative party, but against the Mackenzie Government and against that Reform party of which Mr. M. C. Cameron is so distinguished a member. This attempt by Mr. Cameron to censure the present Government for acts of the Mackenzie Government will give a fair idea of the candor with which he approached the subject he undertook to discuss. It may be said that he did not in express terms affirm that the present Government obtained the possessory rights of the Indians for a mere pittance. No; he did not. He merely made his statement in such a manner that people



would infer such to be the fact. And that peculiarity runs through his whole argument. It will be found cropping up again. Mr. Cameron has a very convenient habit of quoting a sentence from a report, interjecting a comment of his own, and then going on apparently with the same quotation, but really with a quotation from some wholly different document whose date and authorship he does not disclose.

#### CHARACTER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

But it is proper to descend from generals to particulars—to consider specifically the charges alleged by Mr. Cameron against the Government's administration of Indian affairs in the North-west. And first as to the moral character of the Indian agents. It is easy to make charges: it is difficult to meet them, let the accused be ever so innocent. The man who prefers a charge of immorality should be very careful that his assertions are well founded; and he should give the evidence on which he relies. On examining Mr. Cameron's charges of incompetency and immorality against officials, it will be found that they rest wholly on his bare assertion, or on the report of somebody repeating scandal picked up from somebody else. The first specific assertion is the following:

A young Englishman unfit to do anything in his native country was shipped off to Canada, consigned to the care of the First Minister of this Dominion. He was provided for in the Indian service of the Northwest Territories, and he has been living there for three or four years, revelling in the sensual enjoyment of a western harem plentifully supplied with select cullings from the western prairie flowers.

This statement rests on Mr. Cameron's unsupported assertion. It is wholly untrue. Only two officials of the Government live with Indian women to whom they are not married under the Christian rite. These two took their wives as Indians take them, under the pagan rite, and in both cases the men have asked for the performance of the Christian ceremony.

Following this is one of the characteristic statements so skillfully contrived by Mr. Cameron. He has charged that

one white official of the Government is living in adultery with Indian women. That he does not attempt to prove; but he goes on to quote from the *Toronto Mail* the complaint of a missionary that white *men* purchase Indian girls from their parents for immoral purposes. The narrative is so constructed as to induce a belief that the white men charged with buying these Indian girls are officers of the department, and that a respected clergyman proves the offence. Now it is true enough that some white men in the North-west have acquired wives by purchase. That is the Indian mode of acquiring wives. No young Indian ever dreams of getting a wife except by purchase. No Indian father ever dreams of letting his daughter leave his wigwam till he has received a valuable consideration for her. White men have gone to the North-west, have acquired Indian wives and have paid for them after the manner of the country. And doubtless if the Government should forbid the continuance of that custom the Indians would indulge in louder protests than any their "chronic habit of grumbling" has yet induced them to raise. But, with the two exceptions noted above, the men who have thus purchased Indian wives are not officials of the Indian department.

A number of general charges of immorality and incompetency are made by Mr. Cameron, and in support of these general charges he quotes from missionaries and others. The Rev. Mr. Cameron is reported by some unnamed person or paper to have said that the agents were brutal in their treatment of the Indians; and the same anonymous authority says:

Mr. Cameron's statements were confirmed by the Rev. Messrs. Robertson, Flett and other missionaries, who maintained that the Indian revolt was in a great measure due to the character of the Government officials sent amongst them.

Mr. McDougall is reported to have said that "unfit men were appointed to office, without any knowledge of the nature of the work expected of them." Another extract is

given alleged to be from the Hon. Lawrence Clarke, to which particular reference will be made further on.

Now, the Rev. Mr. Trivett, stationed at the Blood reserve, who was called as a witness against the Indian agents, was visited by Assistant-Commissioner Reed, and he informed Mr. Reed that he had never expressed any such sentiments as those attributed to him, but had every confidence in the Indian agents and senior officials. The Rev. Mr. McLean, a Methodist clergyman, expressed like opinions. The Rev. Mr. McDougall has been asked by the department to substantiate the expressions attributed to him, and he has wholly failed to do so. The Rev. Mr. Cameron, at the date of his speaking, had never visited the Indians on their reserves, and therefore knew nothing about them. He once visited the Moosomin reserve to call upon the family of Inspector Clink, but did not see any of the Indians; and he never had been upon any other reserve. He therefore had no personal knowledge of the matters of which he spoke. The Rev. Mr. Flett, cited as a witness against the officials, wrote, on the 6th of April, 1886, as follows:

I think that Mr. Robertson must have taken me up wrong or be laboring under some mistake, as I never at any time wrote such a statement or ever thought it. My opinion has always been that the agents, Messrs. Macdonald, Martineau, Herchener and Markle [the officials connected with the Mission] have always treated the Indians very fairly, in fact, have at all times given them more than the Government promised to give them when making the treaty; and I think they deserve great praise for the able and effective manner in which they have at all times done their duty.

It will be seen that, so far, the charges, vague and general in themselves, melt away under scrutiny like mist before the rising sun. But there was one statement not so general. It was specific and most damaging if true. Mr. Cameron professed to read from a report by the Hon. Lawrence Clarke, at one time a member of the Northwest Council, as follows:

Brutal ruffians were appointed as farm instructors over the Indians, who maltreated the poor people in the most brutal manner, answering them with

kicks and blows accompanied with showers of profanity and disgusting epithets. Of the farm instructors killed by the Indians two were universally known to be brutal wretches such as I have mentioned, and the priests lost their lives in attempting to save them from the pent-up wrath of the savages. Let a commissioner be appointed or a committee of Parliament, and I pledge myself to show to the people of this Dominion such a picture of the facts as will make them wonder how it is the rebellion did not break out years ago. Had not the Indians been restrained by the priests and ministers, the farm instructors and other paid politicians appointed over them would have been killed long ago.

“Whose report is that?” asked the Hon. Peter Mitchell. Mr. Cameron replied: “That of the Hon. Lawrence Clarke, formerly a member of the Northwest Council.”

It is a very serious and solemn thing to make charges of that sort against the dead. Farm instructors Payne and Delany have passed from the bar of human judgment, and must henceforth answer to a higher Judge for their deeds. The man who says such cruel things about them for the purpose of producing a political effect should be very sure of his facts. And if he were sure of his facts he should be very sure that there is need to call into question the characters and conduct of men who can no longer defend themselves. Mr. Cameron is not to be envied when he feels compelled, in order to serve his party, to desecrate the grave, malign the characters of the departed, and cruelly lacerate the feelings of their surviving friends. If the Hon. Lawrence Clarke had expressed such sentiments, it was most unfeeling in Mr. Cameron to repeat them, and to send them broadcast throughout the land in a political campaign document. But what will be thought of the honorable member for West Huron when it is learned that his pretended extract is a piece of false testimony! The Hon. Lawrence Clarke never made any such report. He never wrote or put forth any such statement. He never expressed any such sentiments. In a letter dated the 30th of April, 1886, the Hon. Lawrence Clarke emphatically denies that he ever made any such a statement as that imputed to him. He affirms not only that he never made such a statement, but that the statement itself is not true—that in fact the

reverse of it is true ; that he always held the murdered instructors in esteem ; and that he is ready to make affidavit to this effect.

On the 22nd of May, 1886, Mr. Clarke wrote to Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney as follows :

Cameron's vaporings are unmitigated lies, and I wired our Commissioner the day after his utterances to give them my most unqualified denial.

The charge bore untruth upon its face. All men know that the murdered priests did not loose their lives in attempting to save the farm instructors from the pent-up wrath of the savages. The instructors were treacherously shot down by the Indians ; and while the faithful priests were kneeling over them, administering the last consolations of religion, the fiends turned upon them too and butchered them. More than that, they perpetrated upon the bodies of the priests such atrocities as cannot be described in print. And Mr. Cameron—the *honorable* member for West Huron—is not ashamed to become the apologist for these savages and the traducer of their victims. The simple fact is that the farm instructors were killed, not because they were personally disliked, but because they refused to surrender Government property to the Indians.

As to the general charge of dishonesty and immorality on the part of Indian agents and other officials in the Northwest, a mass of testimony, overwhelming in its conclusiveness, is available. This testimony is contributed by missionary and other clergymen long resident in the country ; by settlers, by journals, some of them politically opposed to the present Dominion Government, and by departmental officials. The Rev. Alfred Andrews, Methodist minister at Lethbridge, writes from that place, under date March 25th, as follows :

By the request of the President of the Manitoba Conference I am here located, in the interests of our Methodist Church. This has brought me somewhat into association with the Blood and Piegan Indians. I have visited some of their lodges and conversed with them through an interpreter. A fortnight ago I went with our missionary, Rev. John McLean, to his Mission

among the Bloods on their reserve and remained a week there, visiting the middle and upper agencies under Mr. Pocklington's supervision. I must say what I saw was very creditable indeed to the Government. You can therefore understand my feeling, on reading while there the Globe's editorial on the Rev. Mr. Robertson's sermon delivered last month at Ottawa on starving Indians in the Northwest. I have written an article to the Globe denying his strictures.

This article was dated Lethbridge, Alberta, March 20, 1886, and duly appeared in the Globe. In it Mr. Andrews states—

1. That the Indians seek things in garbage heaps, not because they are "starving," but because they are curious and not over particular.
2. That on their reserves he saw himself that the rations of meat were good, and were the same as the white officials of the Government get.
3. That having had dinner with the men, he found the beef and bread were as good as could be had in Ontario.
4. That in the matter of food especially more was done for the Indians than was ever promised to them in treaties.
5. That in the matter of clothing and implements firm faith was kept with the Indians under the various treaties.
6. That Mr. Robertson's statement that the majority of the Indians were ready to rebel is untrue.
7. That Mr. Robertson's statements as to the failure of missions was very incorrect.

Mr. Cameron quotes from the Mail the opinions of a Mr. Grier, to the effect that "carpet baggers" were imported to fill official positions; that any amount of corruption existed in the Indian Department," and that "fraud comes in by agreement between the contractors and the agents on different reserves." Mr. Grier himself, writes to Commissioner Reed under date February 27, 1886, as follows:

I never intended to convey the idea that I knew of corruption in the Indian Department. I have not the slightest suspicion of anything of the kind, and all the officials are perfectly honest so far as I know. I do not of my own knowledge know anything in the slightest as to the assertion of Indian officials keeping Indian women at the present time.

The Rev. Leon Doucet in a statutory declaration made before Mr. Assistant Commissioner Reed on the 18th February, 1886, said:

1. I have resided on the Blackfoot reserve most of the time since the early part of 1883.

2. That I never had any suspicion of any fraudulent transaction between any of the employes and the contractors with the view of defrauding the Government or the Indians.

3. That I have never heard any complaints from the Indians as to their being defrauded by the employes.

The Rev. J. N. Tims, on Blackfoot reserve, wrote to Mr. Reed as follows :

With regard to our conversation this morning, allow me to state that during my residence of two and a half years amongst the North Blackfeet as an ordained missionary of the English Church, I have had no knowledge whatever of frauds committed by employes of the Indian Department, either against the Government by conspiring with the contractors, or against the Indians by disposing of the beef and flour in any other way than to the Indians themselves.

The Rev. H. T. Bourne, of the Blood and Piegan reserves, writes to Mr. Reed, March 3, 1886—

As there appears to be an erroneous idea abroad as to frauds being perpetrated by Indian Department officials, I, as a church of England missionary among the Indians of this district for the past three years beg to state that during such time I never had any suspicion of fraud on the part of the officials of this district, but always looked on them as honest upright men. For the past few months I have been more immediately connected with the Piegan reserve, and in so far as I know, the men thereon are not chargeable with having immoral intercourse with Indian women.

Thos. E. Clipsham, Methodist Mission teacher, writes on March 3, 1886 :

I have been a mission teacher on the Blood reserve for about a year and a half, and hereby certify that I know nothing and have never heard of anything to lead me to suspect that any fraud has been practiced by the Indian Department employes on said reservation, and I know of nothing to lead me to the belief that there is any illicit intercourse existing between the employes and the Indian women.

Father Lacombe, the oldest and certainly one of the best authorities on the subject of the Indians in the Northwest, writes to the Commissioner, 2nd April, 1886, as follows : " Let the Indians alone with the Government officers appointed to look after their welfare and there will be no trouble with them." On the 22nd of February, 1884, he had written : " Of course they know that your policy with the Indians has always turned for the best, both for the Government and the Indians."

If corroboration of Father Lacombe's statements were required, it would be found in the actions and the words of the Indians themselves. Within the past few weeks, Crowfoot, the great Blackfoot chieftain, and several other Indian chiefs, have visited Eastern Canada, have appeared in public in many places, and have uniformly, both in public and in private, asserted that their people were treated not only justly but generously by the Government. Father Lacombe has everywhere added his emphatic endorsement to the statements of the Indians.

This testimony comes from men living among the Indians, devoting their lives to the welfare of the Indians, disinterested as between the Indians and the Government; and it must be accepted as conclusive against the vague charges, unsupported by proper testimony, preferred by Mr. Cameron. Other testimony is forthcoming, less valuable for the special purpose in hand, because it is partly official and partly anonymous. This is made up of statements from a responsible officer in the public service and from journals supporting both political parties. Lieutenant Colonel McLeod, the Stipendiary Magistrate in Alberta, and as a judge, quite independent, writes to Commissioner Reed on March 4, 1886 :

I have not the least cause for suspecting that frauds are being perpetrated by any officers of the department in this part of the territories. I do not hear such things hinted at or spoken of by people I meet.

It should be remembered that, though official testimony may not for certain purposes be so valuable or effective as independent testimony, Government officials write with a penalty over their heads. If they conceal, or distort, or deny existing facts, they are certain to be found out and as certain to be dismissed for their offence; as no Government could attempt to retain men guilty of prevarication respecting a matter of such public importance as the temper, condition and treatment of the Indians.



The press is equally favorable. The *Edmonton Bulletin*, always an active opponent of the present Administration, said on the 7th of June, 1884 :

BATTLE RESERVE.—A great deal of credit for the superior advancement of the band is due to the exertions of the Instructor, Mr. Lucas, who spares no pains to assist them in every way.

The *McLeod Gazette* says :

The Rev. Mr. McLean takes no stock in very much of the clap-trap about the abuses practised on the Indians by government officials.

The *Calgary Herald* says :

Rev. John McLean, missionary to the Blood Indians at McLeod, says in a letter : “ Capt. Cotton, of the Northwest Mounted Police, and Mr. Pocklington, Indian Agent, are acting energetically and with tact and kindness in their treatment of the Bloods and Piegans.”

The *Saskatchewan Herald* of March 29th, 1886, says :

A few days ago Assistant Commissioner Reed went into the McLeod district—that being by implication on the strength of the accusations, “ the wickedest place in the Northwest.” He called on the men who had condemned the officials to come forward with their proofs, and on the authority of the *McLeod Gazette* we learn that none of the charges were sustained. Journals, says the same paper, professing to have for their mission the improvement of the social condition of the people and the maintenance of morals and good order of the Dominion, knowingly, persistently, slander honest men in their efforts to score a point against their political opponents.

The *McLeod Gazette*, to which reference is made in the above extract, said on that occasion (March, 1886) :

The visit of Mr. Reed to this district in connection with the various charges made against the Indian Department officials, &c., will undoubtedly be productive of much good. Mr. Reed made a searching and impartial investigation into all the charges of corrupt practices which were said to be going on at the present time, going straight to those who had made the charges. It is pleasant to know that the result of his investigation has shown that there were no very glaring frauds being perpetrated upon the Government by Indian Department officials. There is altogether too much assumption in this fraud business. People are only too willing to believe that officials abuse the trust that is placed in them by the Government. Pure supposition gradually leads to a certainty that such is the case, and the certainty is stated in public or to the public. When asked to lay their finger on the particular fraud they refer to, they find it impossible to do so, and fall back to the old supposition ground again.

The *Lethbridge Gazette* on the subject of the investigation into the charges made in the *Mail's* correspondence says :

The result of it all was an official investigation which, so far as we can learn, was very thorough and searching. Every man who made accusations of dishonesty was given an opportunity of proving his statements. In no case do we learn of any man succeeding in establishing his charges. At this we are not at all astonished. We know the ins and outs of the matter and do not believe that fraud exists. People living among the Indians know how necessary it is that the strictest good faith and honesty should be preserved in their management, and would be the first to notice and denounce frauds.

This is strong testimony, and it covers the whole ground. The witnesses are respectable and wholly disinterested. Some of the witnesses cited by Mr. Cameron contradict him unequivocally, and some of the journals which give testimony in favor of the administration of Indian affairs are politically opposed to the Government. The charges so far have been general. They have not covered specific acts. Mr. Cameron, however, did not confine himself to generalities. He made many direct and specific allegations, which will be quoted in full and answered seriatim. It will be found that without exception his statements are either wholly without foundation or fact, or the testimony supplied by him is so changed, so wrenched from its true bearing and so misapplied as to constitute a virtual misstatement.

#### MISSTATEMENT NO. I.

A. McKay, an Indian agent at Grand Rapids, in his report states that the Inspector of Indian Agencies promised to supply them with all they might require, and that they were urged by that gentleman to make their demands on the department for the same, which they did, but they were not complied with. Mr. McColl, inspector of Indian Agencies in the Northwest, writing of the Swan Lake bands, says that wagons were promised them, and that he is apprehensive of serious consequences unless their claims are recognized.

#### CORRECTION.

It was Mr. Cameron's duty to say from what reports by Mr. McKay and Mr. McColl he quoted. In fact no such reports were ever made. A careful search through all Mr. McKay's reports fails to reveal any such statement as that attributed to the agent by Mr. Cameron. Mr. McColl, the inspector of agencies, writes that he never promised to supply the Indians with all they might require. Indians

frequently make absurd and unreasonable requests, and they as frequently complain when their unreasonable requests are denied. The Swan Lake bands did not receive the wagons referred to because they were not in a position to use them. The Department exercises a wise discretion about supplying Indians with articles which will not prove of real value to them. In this case the Indians received money in lieu of the wagons, accepted that money as full compensation, and professed themselves satisfied with the change. After having taken the money and spent it they demanded the wagons. Of course the Department did not give them money and wagons both.

#### MISSTATEMENT NO. 2.

It is Poundmaker who takes the liberty of sending you a few lines. We entreat Your Honor to send him the grist mill with horse-power you kindly presented him at Cypress. We expected it last summer, but in vain.

These had been promised to the Indian Chief by Commissioner General Dewdney, twelve months before this complaint was made; but up to that hour pledges of the Crown, made by Commissioner Dewdney, had not been fulfilled. Poundmaker says further :

Let me have the 22 oxen you promised for my band.

#### CORRECTION.

Indians frequently ask for expensive machines before they are in a position to use them. In this case a machine was sent to Poundmaker's reserve to thrash his grain, but he refused to let his Indians work at it, and it was taken back.

Treaty stipulations show that Poundmaker's band was entitled to four oxen. Government officials believed that, as the band was making considerable progress in agriculture, a much larger number might profitably be supplied. And the cattle were supplied. Mr. Cameron, with the idea of fairness which pervades his speech, suppresses that part of Poundmaker's letter in which he goes on to say : " There are here sixteen or seventeen oxen." The band having received four times as many cattle as their treaty called for, it was for the Government, not for Poundmaker, to determine whether more should or should not be sent.

## MISSTATEMENT No. 3.

G. McPherson, Indian agent, says:

The clothing for the chiefs and councillors was good, except the trousers and shirts, which were inferior and worn out in three or four days. Now, I ask you, Mr. Speaker, is not that an extraordinary condition of affairs?

## CORRECTION.

Again Mr. Cameron has been guilty of garbling. Mr. McPherson does not say anything of the sort. What he does say is that "an Indian had informed him" to that effect. As in duty bound, he forwarded the complaint to the Department. But we have seen that the Indians are chronic grumblers, and it does not by any means follow that the charge was true. Thirty-three other bands of Indians in the same treaty (No. 3), and all the Indians in treaty No. 6 were furnished with clothing from the same lot of goods, and no other complaint of inferiority was made. It is fair to suppose that if the clothing was poor others would have made the fact known. The clothing referred to was duly inspected and passed as being up to the standard.

## MISSTATEMENT No. 4.

W. Herchmer, Indian agent, speaking of the Salteaux band under "South Quill," says:

Hunting having failed in their neighborhood, the band have been obliged to sell most of their horses to buy supplies, and are now miserably poor.

Miserably poor! With a munificent donation voted by Parliament, and expended last year, of some \$1,400,000. Miserably poor! And why? Because this Government negligently and carelessly permit their contractors to supply these Indians with an article of wearing apparel that lasts the three days.

## CORRECTION.

Well, most of the Indians are miserably poor. If they were not they would not need Government assistance. All the Government can do is to keep them from actual suffering. And it does that only when the Indians make some attempt to help themselves. In 1883, Mr. Herchmer reported:

The Salteaux band, at Rolling river, refused to take their new reserve after it had been acquired for them at great trouble and expense. Many of them are now anxious to take it, but I fear the part proposed to be purchased

cannot now be had. However, they cost the government little or nothing, and I have warned them that until they do settle down they will get no assistance.

In the same report Mr. Herchmer writes of the Crees and Salteaux :

I do not expect to make of these Indians farmers. A little corn and potatoes will be about the extent of their harvest. There are one or two good men, but the influence of the rest is too strong for them. They have a good fishing lake, and they will have to look to that for subsistence, as they can sell their surplus fish.

The Government *must* bring pressure to bear upon the Indians to induce them to help themselves. If they refuse to work, and refuse to settle down on their reserves, they must take the consequences. They will remain "miserably poor." But white men who will not work are miserably poor also. The policy pursued toward these Salteaux Indians is producing some good results. In 1885, Mr. Herchmer reported :

At Rolling River there is a farm instructor, Pierre Contois, and a very nice crop has been put in, which looks well. But the Indians prefer working and loafing around Minnedosa to settling permanently on the reserve. They are little expense to the department ; and they will become settled in time, when they see the advantages to be gained.

#### MISSTATEMENT NO. 5.

A. McKay, Indian agent, says of the Indians on Che-ma-wha-win reserve :

"The harrows and ploughs were lying partly buried in mud and weeds in different places. Some of them have never been used or put together yet, and are spoiling for want of care."

We have an army of officials in the Northwest ; we have Indian agents, sub-Indian agents, farm instructors, all kinds and classes of men there to look after the interests of the Indians ; and yet we find that so little attention was paid to those supplies that they were dumped off in the mud and filth and left there to rot. And we are surprised and astounded that the Indian is not satisfied with the attention he receives.

The manner in which Mr. Cameron distorts the fact will best be shown by putting the actual report of Mr. McKay alongside the travesty of that report supplied by the honorable member for West Huron. Here is the actual statement of Mr. McKay :

#### CHE-MA-WHA-WIN RESERVE.

I arrived here on the night of Saturday, the 12th of August, and made the payments on Monday, the 14th. No improvements have been made at

this place during the past year. It is a poor reserve for planting purposes, and the Indians take very little interest in doing anything in that line. *In going over the reserve on the 11th September, I noticed that no attempt was made to care for the implements which had been supplied to them.* The harrows and ploughs were lying partly buried in mud and weeds in different places. Some of them have never been used or put together yet, and are spoiling for want of care.

The agent does *not* say that "the supplies were dumped off in the mud and filth and left there to rot." That is Mr. Cameron's invention. The implements were supplied; but the Indians had made no attempt to use them or even to care for them. It will be noticed that the Government is blamed if its officials think proper not to supply implements where there is no proper demand or use for them. And it is equally blamed if it does supply them and the Indians do not properly use them and care for them.

Che-ma-wha-win reserve is in treaty No. 5, which stretches along parts of the east and west banks of Lake Winnipeg. Its people are not people of the plains. They never depended upon the buffalo, and their former means of subsistence have not failed them. Consequently, farming instructors have not been sent among them. The Inspector for this treaty has a large territory to cover and many reserves to visit. He is fully occupied with his arduous duties, which at times expose him to much privation. Nevertheless, he was censured by the Department for permitting these implements to be so misused by the Indians to whom they were supplied.

#### MISSTATEMENT No. 6.

Mr. McColl, the Inspector of Agencies, says :

"I also notice in the same record that nearly all the bands within this agency have received more axes than they were entitled to under the treaty, and that only two or three bands have received their complement of hoes, spades and scythes, notwithstanding the representation made to the contrary to the Department as well as to the Indians in reference to the matter."

Notwithstanding the representations made to the contrary to the Department as well as to the Indians in reference to the matter. In other words, our agents in the Northwest, in charge of the Indian Department, were so indolent, so lazy, so indifferent, so reckless and so careless, that they delivered to some bands of Indians far more of one class of tools and implements than they required, while to other bands they gave none at all.

## CORRECTION.

The testimony does not sustain the charge. Mr. McColl does not say that any bands had received no hoes, spades, scythes, but that some of them had not received their complement—their full allowance. All necessary implements for these Indians were provided and stored with the agent, who, through an error of judgment, did not issue them in the proper proportions. So soon as the Department was informed of this immediate measures were taken to rectify the error.

## MISSTATEMENT No. 7.

The same inspector further says:

The potatoes and barley received last spring were half rotten.

Now I ask the Acting Minister of Indian Affairs if his attention was ever drawn to that report? Is that the kind of treatment we ought to mete out to the wards of the nation, to the men by whom, above all others, we are in honor bound to deal fairly and honestly? We pay for these things and we supply them, but when they reach the Indians they are wholly unfit for food.

## CORRECTION.

Seed potatoes and barley were furnished to the Loon Strait Indians, Treaty No. 5, in 1882, and were stored at Dog Head, but some of the Indians did not go for their share, and, therefore, a portion of the seed was spoiled. The Indians, however, purchased the seed they required from the Fishers river band, and consequently did not suffer. The Government was not to blame in this affair, nor were any of its officers.

## MISSTATEMENT No. 7

The same inspector again says:

That the councillor complains that the quality of the hats, trousers and shoes received by him were inferior.

## CORRECTION.

The clothing for the chiefs and councillors is always carefully selected and inspected, and this is the only complaining councillor in Treaty Nos. 1 and 2. Here may be aptly quoted a paragraph from the *Toronto Globe*, which, in 1879,

said in reply to some similar charges brought against the Indian Department :

They are based, presumably, on somebody's tattle poured into Mr. White's ear during his Northwest tour, for even the complaints of the Indian chiefs are not a sufficient basis on which to erect a superstructure.

It is respectfully submitted that an occasional example of the Indian's "chronic habit of grumbling" is not evidence on which the Department should be condemned.

#### MISSTATEMENT NO. 9.

He further reports that John Marcus, one of the councillors of the Cumberland band, complains that the agricultural implements forwarded by the department for their use was refused to them. We were under obligations, we were in honor bound to give the Indians these things; they were bought and paid for, yet when they reached their destination, some wise agent of the Administration would not hand them over to the Indians. Was an inquiry made into this? In so far as I am able to gather from the reports, none was made.

#### CORRECTION.

The band did get all the implements called for under the treaty. The implements withheld were over and above the complement. The agent hesitated to give them until he received specific instructions to do so. The fact being reported to the Department, the Inspector of Agencies at Winnipeg was instructed, in April, 1883, to hand over to the band any implements then stored at Cumberland, which it was considered they ought to have.

#### MISSTATEMENT NO. 10.

E. McColl, in his report for 1882, says :

Waggons were promised these Indians, and that he was apprehensive of serious consequences, unless their claims were recognized.

#### CORRECTION.

No such passage occurs in Mr. McColl's report.

#### MISSTATEMENT NO. 11.

C. E. Denny, another Indian agent, speaking of the breach of contract by the contractor, says :

I sent a message to Fort Benton to I. G. Baker & Co., informing them that flour was needed and to ship it at once. I had, on two occasions to purchase cattle from others than the contractors, as they failed to keep me supplied



and beef would have run out on the Blackfeet and other reserves if I had not done so. I had to pay high prices and notified the contractors before taking this step.

There you see how a portion of the fund which Parliament voted was expended. The contractors either did not supply the articles at all, or supplied it of an inferior quality ; yet, no investigation was made, no inquiry made, and nothing was done.

#### CORRECTION.

Again Mr. Cameron garbles his quotations. He omits a sentence from the agent's report, which proves that something was done, that the Indians did not suffer, the Government did not suffer, and that the Department officials did their whole duty in protecting the people under their charge. What Mr. Denny really said was this :

I sent a messenger to Fort Benton to I. G. Baker & Co. informing them that flour was needed and to ship some in at once. I had, on two occasions, to purchase cattle from others than the contractors, as they failed to keep me supplied ; and beef would have been run out on the Blackfeet and other reserves had I not done so. I had to pay high prices and notified the contractors before taking this step. *Of course, the contractors were the losers of the amount over the contract price.*

Mr. Cameron dishonestly omitted the last sentence, and then indulged in comments which that sentence contradicts. Is this the manner in which public affairs should be debated in Parliament ? Mr. Cameron is the servant of the people, sent to Parliament to transact public business in the interest of the country, and he draws public money for transacting public business. His duty to the people who pay him demands that he work for them and not for a party. In considering public affairs he is bound, if not by any regard for honor and uprightness, at least by his duty to the people who pay him, to present nothing but facts, and to present all the facts within his reach bearing upon the question before him—in a word to “tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.” But, as has been seen, Mr. Cameron says things which are not the truth, and he garbles his extracts so as to give them a meaning wholly different from that they were intended to bear.

#### MISSTATEMENT No. 12.

Mr. Herchmer, speaking of the Sioux bands, says :

A great deal of sickness has visited them lately caused by the want of fresh meat.

## CORRECTION.

The Sioux are not treaty Indians, and the Government is in no way bound to feed them. Neither does Parliament provide money for this purpose. The small annual Sioux appropriation is to provide for the purchase of tools, cattle, etc. But Mr. Cameron again garbles. This is what Mr. Herchmer says in his report, 30th June, 1883 :

A great deal of sickness has visited them lately, caused by the want of fresh meat, as they seldom hunt now ; in fact, there is little to hunt in their country. I have asked the Department for sheep, which will be well taken care of, and will supply the place of deer.

This sickness is due to the want of fresh meat, and they have no fresh meat because they do not hunt, and not on account of any fault of the Department. Mr. Cameron makes it appear, by taking a line from its context, that they are suffering through Government negligence. Mr. Herchmer reported on July 26th, 1884 :

I am sorry to report that there has been a great deal of sickness during the year, particularly among the Bird's Tail Sioux. Fever and consumption have been the chief complaints, the former attributable to the want of animal food. The almost total disappearance of game necessitates the speedy introduction of sheep and pigs among the Indians.

But in 1885 he said :

The Sioux bands, under my control, have made great strides during the last year, and have now three hundred head of cattle.

## MISSTATEMENT No. 13.

W. Pocklington, speaking of Stoney Indians, says :

During last winter there was a great deal of distress among them for want of clothing, many of them not having a blanket to cover their nakedness.

## CORRECTION.

Again Mr. Cameron garbles, and wholly perverts the reports. Here is Mr. Pocklington's full statement :

The Stoney Indians are probably the best behaved and most industrious Indians in the treaty ; they work hard both in their gardens and while hunting.

During last winter there was a great deal of distress among them for want of clothing, many of them not having a blanket to cover their nakedness. The snow was so deep in their usual hunting grounds that it was impossible for them to hunt, which of course cut off a large portion of their earnings. However, we put them to sawing wood for the Department, many of them making quite a nice little sum.

When spring opened up, they ploughed up nearly two hundred acres of land themselves, working steadily and willingly all the time ; expressing

themselves as thankful for the assistance rendered them by the Government in the way of seeds. Several of these Indians were employed by the Syndicate to pack provisions into the mountains, receiving pay at the rate of \$1.75 per diem, for man and horse. I understand one party received upwards of \$2,000.

#### MISSTATEMENT NO. 14.

He (Mr. Wadsworth) reports as to Mistowasis band :

They complained that they did not get treaty pigs, and Wadsworth recommends that Mistowasis and Ahtahkakoops get them.

Mr. Wadsworth says of the Bobtail band :

They complain that still due them, under treaty, a cow and bull.

And further :

The Ermine Skin's band complain of want of a mower and some carts.

#### CORRECTION.

These bands received all that was due them and more. They asked for many things, and the Department used a wise discretion in supplying articles not called for by the treaties. If all the demands of the Indians were complied with the expenditure would be enormous, and the Indians would have no incentive to exertion.

#### MISSTATEMENT NO. 15.

These are not the only complaints that the Indians have been making for a number of years. *We promised and were under treaty obligations* to supply the Indians, just fresh from the plains, from which the buffalo had disappeared, *with fresh beef*. But instead of fresh beef, we supplied them with salt pork, though we could get fresh beef from 12½ to 15 cents per lb., and had to pay for the pork, some of which was rusted at that, from 20 cents to 25 cents per lb. The table I have of quotations, culled from the vouchers in the Indian Department, shows the following :

At Fort McLeod, in 1882-3, beef was worth per lb. 8½ cents and bacon 20 cents ; in 1883-4, beef was worth per lb. 14½ cents and bacon 23½ cents ; in 1884-5, beef 14 cents and bacon 18 cents per lb. In the Saskatchewan district, in 1882 3, beef was worth 15 cents and bacon 25 cents ; in 1883-4, beef 20 cents and bacon 21½ cents per lb. At Battleford, in 1882-3, beef was worth 12½ cents per lb. and bacon 23 cents ; and 1883 4, beef 17 cents and bacon 20 cents. In Calgary in 1882-3, beef was worth 8¾ and bacon 21½ cents ; and in 1883-4, beef 14¾ and bacon 24½ cents per lb.

#### CORRECTION.

It is absolutely untrue that the government promised, or was under treaty obligations to supply the Indians with a pound of fresh meat. Mr. Cameron knew perfectly well that his statement was false. There is no treaty obligation

to supply the Indians with food at all, except in Treaty No. 6, made in 1876. In that treaty the commissioner agreed that in the event of pestilence or of a general famine overtaking the Indians, the Government would grant such measure of relief as might be deemed expedient. In the Order in Council accepting that treaty the Mackenzie Government expressed regret that such a provision should have been inserted. The Government is not bound by treaty to feed the Indians. As a measure of humanity and of justice it gives food as its officers think the needs of the Indians demand, and it gives that food in such manner as to encourage the Indians to help themselves and to become self-sustaining as quickly as possible.

As regards the question of *Beef vs. Bacon*, Mr. Cameron's figures, even taking his prices as correct, are very delusive. While it would take at least 1 pound of beef a day for each Indian, it only takes  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a pound of pork. Bacon is free from bones ; and, being all fat, they can utilize it with other food, so that pork is certainly more economical. At 20 cents a pound, one-third of a pound would cost  $6\frac{2}{3}$  cents, as against  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents for one pound of beef. The Department is guided in its distribution by many circumstances. The Blackfeet, for instance, are largely supplied with beef, because game is not so plentiful as among the Crees, and also because they are not good hunters of game, they having a superstition that the souls of their ancestors enter the bodies of wildfowl at death. The Crees, on the other hand, kill quantities of fowl, and therefore do not need so much fresh meat, which is fortunate in that it would be much more expensive to furnish them with beef than the Blackfeet.

As an illustration of the unreasonableness of the Indians, it may be said that when, some years ago, the Government furnished the Blackfeet with bacon they asked for beef. Their request was complied with, and then they wanted to go back to pork. Now the Department was not bound, except from motives of humanity, to furnish either beef or

pork, and it is more than absurd to allege as a wrong to the Indian that he was provided with food that would be a luxury to the English agricultural laborer.

In cases of sickness or infirmity which may prevent the head of a family from hunting, he is supplied with fresh meat by the Department.

#### MISSTATEMENT No. 16.

And this, although the Department was made aware of the fact by its agent, Mr. Herchmer, in his report for 1883. Mr. Herchmer there says:

A great deal of sickness has visited them lately caused by the want of *fresh meat*." "The Indians, under treaty 4, received in 1884-5, \$15,290.92 worth of pork and \$1,288.45 worth of beef, although it is known that beef is life to the Indian, while salt pork is disease and death to him.

#### CORRECTION.

This relates to the Sioux, who, as has been already stated, are not treaty Indians.

Here is another misstatement. In *Hansard* it would appear that Mr. Herchmer was responsible for all the quotations after the words "*fresh meat,*" whereas they are Mr. Cameron's own words, printed in that way either by mistake or for a purpose.

#### MISSTATEMENT No. 17.

Agent Herchmer, in his report dated the 24th July, 1885, speaking of the types of disease among the Indians, says:

To these might be added, I think, the sudden change from fresh meat on the prairies to flour and bacon in comparative confinement.

Again a sentence is wrenched from its context to make it bear a significance not intended. What Mr. Herchmer really said was this:

Unfortunately, they have suffered terribly from consumption and scrofula, the death rate during the cold weather and early spring having been enormous. Dr. Redmond, late fleet surgeon, R. N., having been taken out to visit these bands, after carefully examining all the Indians showing any symptoms of disease, reported that the above diseases were the main causes of the numerous deaths, the secondary causes being dirt and ill-ventilated houses. To these might be added, I think, the sudden change from fresh meat on the prairies to flour and bacon in comparative confinement.

It will be seen that the diseases afflicting these Indians were consumption and scrofula, caused by dirt and want of ventilation. No doubt a change from the wild, free life of

the open prairie to comparative confinement, and a change of diet from fresh meat to flour and bacon aggravated the disease. It must be borne in mind that the remarks in the report did not refer to Indians generally, nor even to those of a whole tribe, but only to two small bands, those of Pheasant's Rump and Red Ears. Mr. Herchmer says that a great impetus has been given to their agricultural work; that "each family has planted plenty of potatoes, and the wheat promises to be an excellent crop;" that "both bands have taken good care of their cattle, and have broken a quantity of new land." It will be seen that, except for the disease among them, these bands are doing fairly well.

It may be said that beef is much more largely supplied to Indians than pork. In 1883, the total supply of beef was 1,947,088 pounds; of bacon 325,389 pounds. In 1885 the quantities were: of beef, 2,146,133 pounds; of bacon, 380,640 pounds. Less than 15 per cent. of the total supply was bacon. But an English agricultural laborer or a Canadian lumberman will hardly consider himself wronged if supplied with bacon or salt pork for food. It must be remembered, too, that a certain proportion of bacon must be kept on hand to meet sudden exigencies. The Department cannot keep herds of cattle, nor beef fresh in refrigerators, but bacon (not pork, which is never supplied) on a report of scarcity of food in any band, is always ready.

#### MISSTATEMENT No. 18.

And again at page 61 he says:

At Oak River, eleven men have died out of 88 heads of families, and seventeen children under three years old. This is very distressing and is hard to account for—the change of diet, owing to the hunting and scrofula, being probably the cause.

#### CORRECTION.

The Indians have a chronic habit of grumbling, but it is not half so persistent as Mr. Cameron's chronic habit of garbling. Now what Mr. Herchmer said was this:

*There has been a great deal of consumption among these bands, and during the last year over fifty have died.* At Oak River eleven men have died out of

eighty-eight heads of families, and seventeen children under three years old. This is very distressing and is hard to account for—the change of diet, owing to the failure of hunting and scrofula, being probably the cause. Still, *seven deaths have resulted from whisky*, in spite of the strenuous exertions adopted to put down the sale of this deadly Indian poison.

Consumption and scrofula are both hereditary diseases; and the Indian custom of wearing moccasins, and their mode of life generally are very unfavorable to longevity and to health.

The paragraph from which the extract is made opens with a statement that the Sioux bands “have made great strides during the year, and have now (July 24th, 1885) three hundred head of cattle, many of them very large fields, one having sown sixty bushels of wheat besides other grain, and at one Reserve (Oak River) nearly one thousand bushels of potatoes have been planted.” It will be seen that Mr. Cameron carefully excludes all the lights from his picture, and would have us believe that among these Indians is nothing but sickness, starvation and death, whereas they are steadily advancing towards civilization.

#### MISSTATEMENT No. 19.

Mr. Magnus Begg, Indian agent, in his report dated 18th July, 1885, says

During the month of April there was considerable sickness on the Stoney reserve and it was thought favorable to issue beef, which was done and with satisfactory results.

In other words, we feed the Indians on salt pork until they become sick to death, and then we feed them on fresh beef to restore them to life again.

#### CORRECTION.

Which is simply not true. The Stonies are a hunting tribe, and always have been able to supply themselves with fresh meat. In 1884 their hunting grounds were flooded; they were not so successful as usual; and towards spring it became necessary to issue rations to them. In consequence of sickness, beef, and not pork, was issued. The Stonies have about four hundred head of cattle, some of them milch cows. Mr. Begg, in his report for 1885, said:

This spring the Indians have put in large quantities of roots, as it has been found that grain is not a paying crop, there being no grist mill in the

vicinity. \* \* \* The fields present a much neater appearance than formerly, on account of the barbed wire, and horses have done no damage this year to crops.

#### MISSTATEMENT NO. 20.

Mr. Wadsworth, the Superintendent of Indian affairs, in his report for 1882, speaking of the Riviere qui Barre Indians, says:

The flour and bacon received as supplies was bad, and the flour received by the Indians at Battleford had become lumpy.

#### CORRECTION.

No such statement was made by Mr. Wadsworth. What that gentleman did say was as follows:

There was a good deal of flour and bacon on hand from the stores of the preceding winter, neither of which had kept very well, and there will be some waste in issuing. The quality of the flour sent in by the contractors this year is excellent.

That which had not kept well was, of course, not issued to the Indians.

#### MISSTATEMENT NO. 21.

Mr. Wadsworth, in his report for 1883, speaking of the Indians in the Sekaskoots reserve, says:

I could get no account of the supplies sent in by the contractors or the Government.

#### CORRECTION.

Mr. Cameron does not quote correctly. What Mr. Wadsworth said was as follows:

The farm storehouse had been used as a depot of supplies for this district; but neither at Battleford nor at Fort Pitt could I procure accounts of what supplies had been sent in by contractors or the Department. \* \* \* I have no reason to think that he (the farmer) neglected to enter receipts in the books as received, but it would have been more satisfactory if the usual checks could have been made.

It will be seen that there was foundation for the complaint made, though Mr. Cameron exaggerated the matter. The farmer kept accounts, but there were no means of checking them, as was usual throughout the Northwest. The facts being reported to the Department, an investigation was held, and a change in the method of keeping the accounts was ordered.

The incident does not prove any general looseness or



carelessness in keeping books in the Indian Department, but the reverse. The operations of the Department reach from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, and involve the expenditure of more than a million of money. It is inevitable that occasional irregularities will occur. There is not a merchant or manufacturer in the Dominion who does not encounter such irregularities in his business, though all its operations may be carried on under his own eye. But we see that when an irregularity does occur in the Indian service it is promptly reported to the Department, investigation is ordered, and the evil is remedied. The public interests are certainly guarded with care.

#### MISSTATEMENT NO. 22.

He further says :

The flour received by those Indians only average 93 pounds per sack.

And again, speaking of Poundmaker's band, he says :

The flour was inferior and of light weight.

#### CORRECTION.

As regards this it may be said that the most explicit instructions are sent the agents that every bag of flour is to be weighed on receipt before an agent of the contractors or the freighters, and any that do not come up to the proper weight are to be filled from another sack (the expense to be borne by the contractor), and no sack is on any account to leave the store-house unless containing 100 lbs. net of flour. *In the cases referred to no more than the quantity of flour delivered was paid for by the Department.*

#### MISSTATEMENT NO. 23.

A. McKay, Indian agent, in his report for 1884, says that the Inspector of Indian agencies promised to supply them with all they might require, and that they were urged by that agent to make their demands on the Department for the same ; that they did so, but the supplies were not sent. E. McColl, in his report for 1882, says :

Wagons were promised these Indians, and that he was apprehensive of serious consequences, unless their claims were recognized.

Mr. T. P. Wadsworth, in his report for 1883, speaking of Day Star's band, says

The chief complained that he could not get his treaty pigs, and he wanted more oxen, a tool chest and milk pans.

Also that :

Mistowasis' band and Ah-tah-ka-koop's band did not get their treaty pigs, and he recommends that they get them.

He further reports that:

Bobtail's band has complained that there was still due them under the treaty a cow and bull.

He further reports that :

Ermine Skin's band complained that there was due them under the treaty a mower and some carts.

These are all repetitions, and are put in a second time by Mr. Cameron to swell the apparent number of his charges. It may not be out of place to repeat that the first pretended extract is an invention: it does not appear in Mr. Coll's report. The other extracts are all garbled. To show how this is done, the pretended quotations are put alongside the actual words of the report,

THE GARBLED QUOTATIONS.

The chief complained that he could not get his treaty pigs, and that he wanted more oxen, a tool chest and milk pans

Mistowasis' band and Ah-tah-ka-koop's band did not get their treaty pigs, and he recommended that they get them.

Bobtail's band complained that there was still due them under the treaty a cow and a bull.

Ermine Skin's band complained that there was due them under the treaty a mower and some carts.

THE REAL REPORTS.

He asked for his treaty pigs, more work oxen, another tool chest, and moccasins, also milk pans.

I beg to recommend that this band and Ah-tah-ka-koop's be supplied with their treaty pigs.

They claim that there is still owing to them under the treaty a cow and a bull.

The chief asked for a mower and some carts.

It will be seen that Mr. Cameron garbled in every case. The facts are very simple. Day Star did not complain. He was promised some pigs under the treaty, and he asked for them. He also asked for some things not promised in the treaty. Treaty pigs were also due two other bands, and the agent thought the time had come when they should be supplied. Bobtail's band claimed a cow and a bull. There is no evidence that the claim was well founded. Ermine Skin asked for a mower and some carts. There is no evidence that these were due under the treaty.

## MISSTATEMENT No. 24.

Francis Ogiltree, Indian agent, in his report dated 14th October, 1884, says, in speaking of the Sandy Bay band :

They are very anxious to get the cattle they are entitled to as well as some of the tools.

## CORRECTION.

Mr. Cameron has garbled this extract only by adding the word very. Mr. Ogiltree says these Indians have "a pretty good supply of horses and cattle, nearly all of their own raising, having only received from the Government one yoke of oxen, one of which strayed away shortly after. They are anxious to get the bull and cows they are entitled to under treaty. Their stock consists at present of twenty-five horses and fifty-one head of horned cattle." Government officials must exercise some discretion as to the proper time for delivering animals. In some cases where they were delivered too soon, they were lost, were allowed to starve, or were eaten, and the band got little good of them. Day Star's band has been supplied with all the animals and tools they were entitled to under the treaty.

## MISSTATEMENT No. 25.

John McIntyre, Indian agent, in his report dated 6th October, 1884, says in reference to the Lac des Mille Lacs band :

This band is still entitled to three cows.

## CORRECTION.

One grows disgusted at the persistent falsification and garbling of reports by Mr. Cameron. What Mr. McIntyre really said was this :

This band is still entitled to three cows, but are not prepared to receive them.

## MISSTATEMENT No. 26.

And of the Wobegan and Eagle Lake bands :

I took an inventory of all their tools and implements and find they are short of a good many for which I have made requisition.

## CORRECTION.

These bands have been supplied with all the tools and implements to which they are entitled by treaty. Most people will learn with surprise that the Indians are wronged or injured by the agent making requisition for still more.

## MISSTATEMENT No. 27.

And of the Mattawa and English River band :

This band asks for one plough and one harrow, twenty grubbers, one morticing pick, one single yoke, and two cows still are due them.

## CORRECTION.

Two cows were due the band under the treaty. They asked to have them delivered at Rat Portage, on the 4th of January; and they have been delivered. The tools and implements asked for were not under the treaty.

## MISSTATEMENT No. 28.

And of the Fish River reserve:

They again ask for a steel grist mill. They also requested to be supplied with two brush breaking ploughs, two iron harrows, and four sets of strong chain traces as those previously furnished were worthless.

## CORRECTION.

There is no Fish River reserve. There is a Fisher River reserve, but Mr. McIntyre has nothing to do with it. Mr. A. McKay, agent for treaty No. 5, did report that the Indians asked for the articles mentioned by Mr. Cameron. But it does not follow that they were entitled to the articles. Mr. McKay begins his report by saying that he "delivered the supplies and implements" on the evening of his arrival at the reserve. And there is no reason to suppose that the band did not get all it was entitled to under its treaty, and as many more as the agent thought were required. The treaties do not call for implements every year, but so many "once for all." Treaty No. 5 does not call for any grist mill, any brush-breaking harrows, nor any chain. No doubt the Indians asked for these articles; but it does not follow that it would have been wise to grant them. Even if it

was wise to grant them, it is very certain that the articles were not due under the treaty.

It may be worth while here to point a little more particularly to Mr. Cameron's method. He asserts that the Indians have been "robbed, cheated and swindled out of what they were entitled to by the agents and the middlemen; and the proof of his charge is that the Indians are reported to have asked for certain things. If it could be shown that a beggar had asked Mr. Cameron for a penny, it would hardly be considered proved that Mr. Cameron had "robbed, cheated and swindled" that beggar. Yet the evidence would be quite as conclusive as that which he puts in to sustain his monstrous charge against the Indian Department. The Indians have had all they were entitled to under their treaties. They have had a great deal more, given by the generosity of the people, through the Government and its officials. They ask for still more. Without inquiring whether or not they were entitled to the things they ask for—without inquiring whether or not they needed them—without inquiring whether or not they were supplied with them after asking, Mr. Cameron jumps to the conclusion that they were "robbed, cheated and swindled," simply because he finds that they preferred certain requests. He was either acquainted with the facts in the case or he was not. If he was, it is evident that he has intentionally misrepresented them. If he was not, it is evident that he was wholly incompetent to discuss the subject he took in hand.

#### MISSTATEMENT No. 29.

Mr. McDonald, Indian agent, under treaty No. 4, published a letter from Poundmaker, dated 10th November, 1882, in which the old chief says:

There is to-day a great distress in my band. Their rations are suspended now for 41 days, and, of course, everybody is busy roving about and hunting. It is impossible to work on an empty stomach.

#### CORRECTION.

Mr. McDonald is agent for Treaty 4, and has nothing to do with Poundmaker, whose reserve is in Treaty 6. There

seems to be no record of such a letter in the annual reports, but even if it be there, an Indian's statement in regard to food must always be taken *cum grano salis*.

As to Poundmaker's objection to work on an empty stomach, he always had a strong disinclination to work upon a full one.

When the Deputy-Superintendent-General of Indian Affairs was on his reserve, in 1883, he found Poundmaker engaged in the not very praiseworthy occupation, for a chief, of dissuading his band from working at all, though they got full rations when they worked. He informed them that the Government was bound to feed them all the same, whether they worked or not.

#### MISSTATEMENT No. 30.

C. E. Denney, Indian agent, in his report for 1882, says :

I found the Blackfeet willing to work had they received assistance, but they had been badly neglected and, in consequence, were wild and unsettled.

#### CORRECTION.

The Blackfeet had only recently settled on the reserve, in 1882, and it was not easy to induce Indians, who had never been engaged otherwise than in the chase or on the warpath, to settle down and cultivate the soil. Moreover, the agent there at that time, though a perfectly honest man, was not, otherwise, a success. He was changed ; and since then there have been no complaints about the Blackfeet, one being attended to.

#### MISSTATEMENT No. 31.

Commissioner McLeod, in his report for 1879, says :

I have experienced great difficulty (with the distress and suffering) applications for relief being constantly made to me by the starving bands of Indians.

Again the commissioner says :

A Stoney Indian and his family had been without food for many days.

Superintendent Walsh, in his report for 1880, says :

Hunger and suffering prevailed. In some places persons became so reduced as to be unable to help themselves. The want of food followed by disease caused an epidemic, which marked its results by the many graves now to be seen in Wood Mountain.

Was there ever such a figure as that portrayed by the pen of the most skillful artist. Was there ever such an indictment preferred even against this Government as that which is framed in that report of one of their own agents in the Northwest? Let me establish this statement by a mass of testimony that will be irresistible. The *Moose Jaw News*, a paper by no means unfavorable to the administration, on the 13th March, 1884, writing of the condition of the Indians in that neighborhood, speaks as follows :

In this connection the case of several Indian families in this vicinity may be cited. A friend driving by one a few days ago, was given to understand that death had been in their midst. On entering the tepee a pitiable sight was discovered. Starvation was visible in their countenances, and a glance sufficed to show the cause of the warrior's death. One can hardly imagine how they had lived at all. The canvas of the tent was old and torn. Not a vestige of anything edible was to be seen, but a few rabbit-skins lying around showed what had been their last meal. Everything in the way of blankets was under or over the dead braves. Around a cheerless fire were huddled an Indian and three or four squaws. They said they had been without food for two or three days, and appearances would go to prove the truth of the assertion. Can we, in this enlightened age, allow scenes like this to take place in our midst without uttering an indignant protest to the proper authorities? Would these Indians have left their reserves and run the risk of starvation if they were sure of being supplied with the necessities of life there?

#### CORRECTION.

The instance referred to by Commissioner McLeod and Superintendent Walsh of the Northwest Mounted Police occurred in the Fort Walsh district, where there was a large camp of vagrant Indians under Big Bear and other chiefs, who were loth to give up hope of the return of the buffalo and refused to go north to their reserves. The Government was most anxious that they should proceed to their reserves and settle upon them, as it was feared that international complications might arise from the presence of such a large body of Indians so close to the boundary line. Consequently they were not fed regularly by the officials, as it was not the policy of the Department to retain at that point a large encampment of Indians, and had they been fed they would simply have remained there and caused trouble.

There was, at the same time, the Sitting Bull contingent of Indians, who had been engaged in the Custer massacre, and trouble was feared between these Indians and our own. Hence there was every reason for the Department to endeavor to discourage the encampment of Indians, referred

to in Commissioner McLeod's and Superintendent Walsh's reports, from remaining in that vicinity. Finally this policy was successful. The Indians, for the most part, proceeded to their reserves or to the Saskatchewan country. There was, therefore, no necessity for an investigation, as the Government had a settled policy in the matter.

Concerning the article in the *Moose Jaw News*, it may be said that these families had no business there. They should have been on their reserves. The officials of the Indian Department cannot be expected to follow Indian families all over the country to see that they get food. If they remain on their reserves and work they will be fed, or if they are ill or otherwise incapacitated from working they will be fed without working.

#### MISSTATEMENT No. 32.

One of the agents, Mr. Herchmer, writing on the subject, says in his report for last year :

During the winter I visited the Pas reserves a number of times and witnessed the actual condition of the Indians. For three months—January to March—many of those in the Pas, Birch river and Pas mountains suffered keenly. It was impossible to supply food as it was actually needed, for there was not sufficient in the district. Undoubtedly the amount of relief given last winter, though unprecedentedly large, has been the means of preserving numbers of these Indians alive.

They were suffering keenly, he says ; there was no food in the district, simply because the policy of the administration was a policy of reducing the Indians to submission by starvation. In the same report Mr. Herchmer says :

About the same time an Indian came from the Pas mountain, telling me of the privation from which the band were suffering and asking for relief, and further, that the Mountain Indians were suffering from want.

#### CORRECTION.

If reply were made that Mr. Herchmer never made any such report, that the Pas agency is not within his district, and that he never visited it, Mr. Cameron would be answered after his own fashion. But it is not desired to confuse facts in this statement. The Pas agency is in Treaty No. 5, and Mr. Reader, the agent for that treaty, did make a report, from which, the above are garbled extracts.



The Department supplies the various bands of Indians with food according to their ordinary needs. It cannot keep large stores on hand in each district. The cost of holding food would be considerable ; it would constitute a standing temptation to the Indians to rise against the agents and steal ; and it is apt to spoil if held over from one season to another. The only cases of bad food ever reported referred to supplies so carried over. In 1884 the Pas Indians received their customary allowance on the 25th of August, and at the same time they were paid their annuities. The supplies would have carried them over the winter without any suffering, but for the early setting in of cold weather, and the consequent partial failure of the fisheries. Mr. Reader said :

At the Pas and Cumberland, and in fact everywhere in the agency except at Birch river and the Pas mountain, large numbers of fish can be caught in the fall. But the very early setting in of the winter last season rendered the fall fishing unsuccessful. The muskrat, upon which many of these Indians in the spring and fall have chiefly lived, was almost extinct. From beginning to end it was therefore a very exceptional winter in this district, and there is every reason to believe that, but for the aid rendered by the Department, not a few would have undoubtedly succumbed to the effects of privation.

Had Mr. Cameron desired to treat this matter fairly he would have made clear the fact that the reason was wholly exceptional. But, knowing the exceptional character of the season, he coolly told his audience that the Pas Indians suffered "simply because the policy of this Administration was a policy of reducing the Indians to submission by starvation." He knew that assertion to be false. Following the paragraph above quoted is that which Mr. Cameron quotes—and garbles. Here it is as written by Mr. Reader :

During the winter I visited the Pas reserve a number of times and witnessed the actual condition of the Indians. *Providentially, the rabbits were numerous the former part of the winter, but for three months—January to March—many of those in the Pas, Birch river and the Pas mountain suffered keenly. It was impossible to supply food as it was actually needed, for there was not sufficient in the district. Undoubtedly, the amount of relief given last winter, though unprecedentedly large, has been the means of preserving numbers of these Indians alive. The ex-chief, John Bell, at the Pas, asked me a short time ago, to convey his gratitude to the great mother for the relief thus given.*

The other paragraph quoted—and garbled—by Mr. Cameron referred to “the early part of the winter,” before the visits just spoken of were made. In fact this was the first notice Mr. Reader had of the destitution at that agency. He says :

About the same time an Indian came from the Pas mountain, telling me of the privation from which the band were suffering and asking for relief. I sent a small amount, and promised to visit their reserve.

In the month of December I visited Birch river, the Pas mountain and Cumberland reserve. The Birch river Indians were still killing some rabbits, but the mountain Indians were suffering from want. At Red Earth most of the men were away trying to catch a few diminutive jack-fish they had discovered in a certain creek. I immediately persuaded five men to go to Cumberland with horses and dogs for provisions to relieve those in distress.

It is clear that when the distress among these people became known, the agent took instant and energetic measures to alleviate it, and that his efforts were successful. In another place Mr. Reader says :

The new chief at the Pas appears to be interested in the welfare of his Indians, and is trying to persuade them to occupy the reserve; for hitherto they have lived in too close proximity to each other, and they themselves have been the main cause of sickness and starvation in the winter.

### MISSTATEMENT No. 33.

Mr. Pocklington, in his report, says :

In January, while visiting the Piegan reserve, I received a letter from Lieut.-Col. McLeod that 75 Stonies were in Pincher Creek in a starving condition. I started for their camp at once, and found them in reality starving, except for assistance given them by Col. McLeod and other residents.

### CORRECTION.

The Stonies here referred to were out on a hunt in the Rocky Mountains. They were unsuccessful. As soon as information reached the nearest agent relief supplies were at once dispatched, and the Department could do no more. Mr. Cameron suppresses a portion of what the agent says, which shows clearly that that official took immediate steps for their relief. This is what the agent says :

In January, while visiting the Piegan reserve, I received a letter from Lieut.-Col. McLeod, C. M. G., that seventy-five Stonies, out on a hunt, were on Pincher Creek in a starving condition. I started for their camp at once,

and found them in reality starving, except for assistance given them by Col. Macleod and other residents. *I arranged with James Dixon (their chief) to give them provisions for their present requirements, and to enable them to proceed to their hunting grounds through the Crow's Nest Pass.*

#### MISSTATEMENT No. 34.

Such have been the results of the policy pursued by the Administration, Hon. gentlemen have sown the wind and they must expect to reap the whirlwind. Nothing but discontent and dissatisfaction and rebellion could be expected from the course pursued by hon. gentlemen opposite. This statement I propose still further to confirm by the evidence of *Mr. McDougall*, from whose statement I have already largely quoted. He says:

"I have thrown down the gauntlet," he replied. "If my letter is challenged I am prepared to substantiate every word of it, but not before it is contradicted. We have reached a certain crisis in the Indian question. *There have been in the past grave irregularities in the Department, for exposing which I was denounced as a traitor and a liar, and brought twice before the conference of my church, but the verdict of the investigating committee always supported me.* The Indians have been defrauded by the contracts not being carried out as specified in the treaty; and the Indian is being defrauded, and so is the Government, which is made to believe that the Indians receive a certain amount when they don't. But of course the Indian is the greatest loser."

#### REFUTATION No. 34.

The gauntlet thrown down by the reverend gentleman was promptly taken up by the Department. Besides the personal visit to him of the Assistant Commissioner, already noted, the Deputy Minister wrote to *Mr. McDougall*, challenged his statements and asked for specific information, which has not been furnished.

As to the grave irregularities referred to by him, it may be said *that these irregularities, for exposing which Mr. McDougall was cited, took place under the late administration, and the person who cited him was a member of his own church—Mr. Nixon, the former purveyor of Indian supplies at Winnipeg.* *Mr. McDougall* stated in a letter to the Deputy that he had written to *Mr. Laird*, then Indian Superintendent of the North-west territory, reflecting upon the inferiority of the articles furnished by *Mr. Nixon*, but without any redress.

Every specific allegation of wrong doing on the part of Indian agents, and of injustice towards them in the matter

of supplies has now been considered. It has been seen that in hardly a single case has Mr. Cameron made a correct quotation; that in most he has so altered the words he pretended to quote as materially to change their meaning; that he has violently removed them from their context, so as to make them bear a color not intended; and that in some cases he has absolutely invented statements for which he had no warrant whatever in the documents he professed to quote. Each statement has been critically examined; and it is respectfully submitted that the evidence shows zeal and earnestness on the part of the Indian Department and its officials to guard the public interests, to care for the Indians, and to lead them towards civilization and self-sustenance. In the few cases of irregularity prompt investigation has been made and the irregularity corrected.

It may not be out of place, in closing this part of the subject, to copy a portion of Mr. Cameron's summing up, and to answer it by a few extracts from official reports. Mr. Cameron says:

I ask you, after having heard this evidence, whether I am not amply justified in the charge I have made against this Government, that they appointed to positions of public trust in the Northwest territories, from among their swarming army of carpet baggers and camp-followers, some of the vilest men that ever occupied public positions. I say this condition of affairs is well known to the Government, and has been well known to the Government for a number of years. I say that it is a scandalous condition of affairs to exist in any country, and a disgrace to the Government that would tolerate it for one hour. I say that they have not only been guilty of sending this class of people to the Northwest territories, but they have been guilty of breaking faith with the Indians.

That has already been answered; and it is proposed further to put against it only extracts from several reports by Mr. McColl, inspector of agencies, to show that improvement has taken place since the present Government acceded to power, and that the condition of things in the Manitoba superintendency is generally satisfactory. Mr. McColl reported as follows:

IN 1878.

To say that the Indians are entirely satisfied with the manner in which the terms of the several treaties have been carried out, would be saying what is

inconsistent with their character. To complain is a chronic feature of their nature. I am forced however, to admit, from personal intercourse with them, and from abundant data at hand, that the manner treaty stipulations have been observed in this superintendency in the past has given just ground for complaint. They have been furnished—by no fault of the Government, which paid the price of prime supplies and implements—with inferior and old worn out cattle, or cattle too wild for working or dairy purposes, and with supplies of all kinds of the most inferior quality, which would not be accepted at any price by the ordinary consumer.

Their complaints on this head have been very much less during 1877 and 1878 than in former years, and they confidently believe that their complaints have been heard at last. To confirm them in this belief ought to be the watchful care of the Department in future.

The Indians complain that the seed grain, potatoes &c., are received too late in spring for sowing and planting in time to mature. This might be obviated by the purchase of these articles in the neighborhood of many of the reserves. Thus securing their early delivery, as well as the saving of expensive freightage to distant points.

#### IN 1879.

From all I can ascertain regarding them, by correspondence and interviews with the different agents and other parties, the Indians of those districts, like these visited, were never better satisfied with the manner in which the several treaties are being carried out. The liberal supply of potatoes and seed grain furnished them last spring, was purchased chiefly in the vicinity of the reserves at very moderate prices, thus ensuring early delivery, as well as saving the great expense of transport from this city to those distant points.

The provisions, twine, ammunition and farming implements supplied to Indians here this year were of the very best quality, and the only complaints made to this office respecting the same were from the Pas and Cumberland bands, whose supply of flour was somewhat damaged in transport up the Saskatchewan river by the Indian boatmen treading upon the sacks with their wet moccasins, which the agent had the freighter to replace; and also from Rat Portage concerning a few pounds of tea and tobacco injured by getting wet in being freighted to that place, which the agent there replaced, and the amount charged was deducted from the freighter's account.

The promptness with which the Government granted their requests, respecting the changing of reserves unfit for cultivation for more suitable ones, and the judicious manner in which other difficulties have been adjusted in this superintendency, gave much satisfaction to the Indians. The supplies sent to the Northwest superintendency were, in many instances, late in arriving at the various points, and others were bought from traders there in order to keep faith with the Indians.

#### IN 1881.

The state of affairs in this superintendency is generally satisfactory this year and the Department is to be congratulated upon the unprecedented excellent

condition in which the contractors delivered the supplies on the dates appointed at the different places of payments. In all my interviews with the Indians not a single complaint was made with the quality of supplies received this year.

#### IN 1883.

The payment of annuities, as well as the general management of this agency, is very satisfactory, and the Department is to be congratulated that sixty bands of Indians under my supervision are all self-supporting, either from the products of the soil, the pursuits of the chase, or from the earnings received from being employed on steamboats, railway construction, in gold mining, surveying, lumbering and in working with farmers; and that, notwithstanding an occasional complaint, real or imaginary, they are becoming every year more contented, and they are beginning every year to appreciate the generosity of the Government in providing for their necessities during the prevalence of epidemics, in establishing educational institutions among them, and in supplying them with all the cattle and implements stipulated by treaty to encourage them in agriculture, as well as in faithfully paying them every dollar of annuity to which they are entitled.

#### IN 1885.

They desired me to convey their thankfulness to the Department for the very superior quality of supplies furnished them, and for the protection afforded them in preventing alcoholic stimulants from being introduced on their reserves during the payment of annuities, inasmuch as the measures adopted were so effectual that no drunkenness occurred among them at that time.

### CHARGES CONCERNING EXPENDITURE.

Before proceeding to examine with actual minuteness the charges which Mr. Cameron has made regarding the expenditures of the Indian Department, a statement may be offered in detail of all expenditures since 1874, in as full a manner as the Public Accounts will permit. This statement is as follows :



The reader will see by studying, however slightly, the foregoing table :

1. That the annuities have greatly increased up to 1882, at which point they were the highest ; the gradual decrease since that time being due to causes indicating an improvement in the condition of the Indians.

2. That the amounts for agricultural implements have been generous. The decrease in 1885 was due to the fact that in previous years the demand was largely supplied, leaving less to be done last year.

3. That in 1885 the supplies of seed were larger than at any previous period, showing that the Indians have more largely taken to agricultural pursuits.

4. That the provision for the destitute has been, since 1880, when the pressure of poverty began to be seriously felt, very generous indeed.

5. That the expenditure on schools has been largely and benevolently increased from \$2,284 in 1879 to \$62,151 in 1885.

6. That the expenditures on farms for the instruction and benefit of the Indians have been liberal in the extreme under the present Administration.

Bearing these creditable and benevolent statements in mind, let the intelligent reader approach the examination of Mr. Cameron's charges against the expenditures for the Indians by the Indian Department. It will be as well to give Mr. Cameron the fullest benefit of his own reckless and extravagant statements, which are neither more nor less accurate or truthful than the allegations that have in previous pages been disproved.

#### INACCURACY NO. I.

This being the condition of affairs, one would naturally like to account for the expenditure of the enormous sums voted by Parliament to feed and clothe the Indians. It can be accounted for ; a large portion of it can easily be accounted for. The Indian is charged with what he never gets ; he is charged two prices for the articles he gets. He is charged with articles that



ought not to be charged to him at all ; he is robbed right and left by the officials and by the middle men, and that I propose to prove beyond possibility or dispute.

#### EXPLANATION.

The Indian appropriation is voted under specific heads, among which is one for "*Provisions for Destitute Indians,*" of which food and clothing form a comparatively small portion. It is, therefore, absurd to allege that the whole appropriation is for food and clothing. It is only one item among many, and the Department is limited by the amount of that item in its expenditure on account of the same. Mr. Cameron's charges as to the Indians being charged two prices, etc., are merely rhetorical flourishes, sound and fury, signifying nothing but a desire to be thought in earnest. Supplies are bought under contract, and contracts are let to the lowest responsible bidders, in open competition. Agents are careful that the Indians get all the goods the contract calls for, and of the qualities specified.

#### INACCURACY No. 2.

The Indians, under treaty No. 1. in 1883, 1884, 1885, according to the sessional papers, are charged with agricultural implements and tools to the value of \$865.50 ; Indians under treaty No. 2, \$504.23 ; Indians under treaty No. 3, \$1,178.71 ; Indians under treaty No. 4, \$27,441 ; Indians under treaty No. 5, \$2,346 ; Indians under treaty No. 6, \$37,420.13 ; Indians under treaty No. 7, \$22,581.99. The Indians under those seven treaties are charged in those accounts, *in three years*, with agricultural implements and tools to the amount of \$92,337.13. Now, sir, according to the reports for 1886, the Indian population, resident on the reserves under treaty No. 4, was 12,102, and they had under cultivation 4,614 acres. It does appear to me *extraordinary* that an Indian population of 12,000 souls with 4,600 acres under cultivation would require agricultural implements and tools in *three years* amounting to the sum of \$87,44.

#### EXPLANATION.

Implements, tools, etc., are given under the treaty stipulations with the Indians, most of which were made under the late Administration, and must be complied with. In addition, as Indians settle upon their reserves and begin to work, the Department gives them necessary tools. Taking Mr. Cameron's own figures the cost of the tools per family of five

would be about \$38 for the three years, which, considering the long distances that the implements have to be transported, is not excessive.

As to acreage the expenditure would certainly be large, were the acreage all included in one farm, which it is not. As is well known, this area is the aggregate of patches of land scattered at a wide distance throughout these immense territories.

### INACCURACY No. 3.

Is it not the fact—I charge that it is the fact—that *one band* received in one year 50 plows, 320 scythes, 320 hay forks, and the very next year this same band are charged with 63 plows, 63 harrows, 140 scythes and 140 hay forks; and the following year this *same band* is charged with \$2,209 worth of plows, besides more scythes and hay forks, and \$5,409 of implements under contract. Will any man tell me, or tell any person else, that these articles ever reached those Indians?

### EXPLANATION.

This statement is entirely incorrect. No band ever received implements in quantities anything approaching those mentioned by Mr. Cameron. Mr. Cameron probably confounds “treaty” with band. There are many bands under the same treaty. Mr. Cameron is at liberty to excuse himself from a charge of willful misrepresentation by pleading ignorance on this subject. But if he is ignorant of the difference between the Indians of one band and those under one treaty he is a most incompetent critic on Indian affairs.

### INACCURACY No. 4.

I say still further: In the Sessional Papers for 1884, No. 4, as showing the extraordinary kind of items that this Government charge to the Indian account, I find that K. D. Graham is paid the sum of \$1,984 for medicines supplied to the Indians. This is not all, for there are lots of other men whose claims are charged to the Indians for supplying medicine. I say that is enough to physic every Indian in the Northwest twice over, and keep them physicked nearly all the year round.

### EXPLANATION.

This refers to a supply of medicine intended to last several years, and in some of the districts that supply has not yet been exhausted. It is necessary to have the medicine, and it is only used when necessary.

## INACCURACY No. 5.

That is not all. In 1883 the Indian account is charged with \$3,630 for commission paid to those pets of the Government, I. G. Baker and others, as commission for advances to the Indians. I ask you, Sir, I ask this House, when the Parliament of this country liberally donated \$1,000,000 to feed, clothe and support the Indians, why we should pay the sum of \$3,000 as commission to I. G. Baker for advances made by him. The Government had the money, Parliament voted the money, it was in their hands, and it was their business to supply the necessary funds; it was their business to have bought the articles for cash, and to have paid for them instead of having the Indian account charged with this sum in one year as commission for advances.

## EXPLANATION.

There were, in 1883, no banking facilities in the Northwest, and it is absolutely necessary to have official checks cashed by some one, to pay employees and for a thousand and one other things. Merchants like Baker & Co. are naturally the parties best in position to advance this money. The regular commission on these advances is one per cent., which, taking into account the length of time they are out of their money, is not exorbitant.

## INACCURACY No. 6.

This is not all. In the accounts for 1882, the enormous sum of \$26,312 is charged to the Indian account for the traveling expenses of the agents appointed by this Government over the North-west Territories.

## EXPLANATION.

The charges of board allowance of agents while traveling is regulated by Order in Council.

The agents have been constantly on the move. For Mr. Cameron to say that the Northwest is the "cheapest country in the world to travel in," only shows that he is not conversant with the Northwest. During the administration of his friends it was found that public officers traveling in Manitoba and the Northwest could not keep within the prescribed allowance, and Orders in Council increasing the allowance in particular cases were frequently passed.

## INACCURACY No. 7.

I find further, by the Sessional Papers for 1884, that the number of Indians in Treaty No. 6, in the year 1883 amounted to 6,639, and the Indian

account is charged with having paid that number of Indians. I find by the Sessional Papers of the following year that the Indians in Treaty No. 6 were then said to number 8,157. In 1883 the Indian account is charged with a payment to 6,639 Indians, including chiefs and headmen. In the following year the Indian account is charged with a payment to 8,157 Indians, or an increase of 1,518 Indians, although the reports show that instead of there being an increase in that band, there was a decrease, and the concurrent testimony of all who know anything about it is that there was a decrease. There is evidently something wrong here which requires investigation, but which was never investigated. I find in the Sessional Papers of 1885 that all the items making up the sum of \$17,670 are charged twice—I do not know whether they have been paid twice; all I know is that they are entered twice in the blue books submitted to Parliament. Some of the items are worthy of the consideration of Parliament and the people of this country.

#### EXPLANATION.

The increase in the number of Indians in treaty 6 between 1883 and 1884 was caused by the influx of Indians in the latter year under Big Bear, who took treaty for the first time in that year at Fort Walsh, and was subsequently paid in the same year in the district of Saskatchewan, treaty No. 6. With regard to the alleged charging twice of \$17,640, *neither the Department nor the Auditor General are able to find out what Mr. Cameron means.*

#### INACCURACY No. 8.

I find that the Indian account of last year is charged with \$10 paid to the South-west Stock Association as Mr. McHugh's membership fee. Will any one tell me why the Indian account should be charged with the cost of making Mr. McHugh a member of the South-west Stock Association?

#### EXPLANATION.

Mr. McHugh was in charge of the herd of cattle belonging to the Department in treaty No. 7, which was subsequently sold, and as he was overseer, it was necessary for him to join the Southwest Stock Association in order to assert the rights of the Department in respect of such cattle at the general "round up," and the Department could not expect him, under such circumstances, to pay the fee himself.

#### INACCURACY No. 9.

I find that Mr. P. G. Hallam was paid \$5 for taking an affidavit. The fee in the Province of Ontario is only 25 cents.

## EXPLANATION.

This was not for one affidavit as stated by Mr. Cameron, but for *ten* notarial affidavits that Mr. Hallam took, for which he was paid at the rate of 50 cents per affidavit.

## INACCURACY NO. 10.

I find that \$85 is charged for taking a thrashing machine to Poundmaker's reserve, which is about the whole value of the machine. It should not have cost more than \$12 or \$15.

## EXPLANATION.

The facts are that when the machine reached the reserve Poundmaker refused to have his grain thrashed, and sent his Indians away, and the \$85 was paid to the owner of the machine for the wages of his men and time lost. He waited with five men and five teams for three days and his machine was damaged in transport. A new machine delivered at that reserve would cost nearer \$800 than \$80.

## INACCURACY NO. 11.

I find that P. G. Patterson is paid \$5 for 50 pounds of flour. Everybody knows that in the markets of the Northwest flour can be got for \$5 a barrel.

## EXPLANATION.

This was a certified sample of flour from the Montreal Board of Trade, and was for the guidance of officers in receiving flour at the agencies. Under these circumstances the Department had to pay higher for it than for an ordinary 50 pounds of flour. Mr. Cameron's idea of values in that country is peculiar. In many remote districts flour has cost settlers and others \$20 a sack, or more than \$40 a barrel.

## INACCURACY NO. 12.

I find that the Indians are charged with \$5,676 as one-third of the cost of the mail service. I ask why the Indian account should be charged with that? The mail service is necessary for the convenience of the white settlers, and ought to be charged to the ordinary fund, and not to the Indian account. It looks to me, on examining this account, as if the object of the Government was simply to spend the Indian funds for the greatest advantage of themselves and their friends.

## EXPLANATION.

This charge was regulated by Order in Council. Before the country was opened up, the Indian Department, the

Public Works Department and the Northwest Mounted Police had to provide for the transport of the mails. This charge has now been stopped.

#### INACCURACY No. 13.

Last year the expenditure on Indian account was \$1,109,604. Mr. Dewdney, in his report, says it cost \$454,000 to feed and clothe the Indians. Will the hon. Minister explain to the House and to the country what became of the other \$645,000? If not, I will give some explanation. We paid Commissioner Dewdney a salary of \$3,200, and if he were a good man, I would not object to that charge. We paid an army of officials of all kinds over \$90,000. We paid the Tory press, from the Ottawa *Citizen* down to the Montreal *Gazette*, \$8,028, which is charged to the Indian account.

#### EXPLANATION.

Mr. Cameron knows very well that feeding and clothing the Indians is only one item of Indian expenditure. That the larger portion goes to pay annuities, and all the other charges connected with the administration of the Department. The items of this expenditure are given in the public accounts or can be obtained in detail by Parliament.

#### INACCURACY No. 14.

We paid for agricultural implements and tools, half of which the Indians never received, \$92,337. The Indian account is charged with sums paid to Indians who were not in the band; it is charged with sums paid to Indians who never were in the band; it is charged with sums paid to Indians after they were dead and before they were born, as the following statement made by Mr. McColl in his report shows: "One of the councillors having two wives is represented on the May sheet as receiving annuity in 1881 for a family of 11, including two infant children, whereas, at the date of payment, only one of these children were born.

#### EXPLANATION.

The statement that the Indians have never received half the implements and tools charged them is simply not the fact. The Department takes very good care by its inspecting officer to know whether articles have been delivered or not. Mr. McColl's statement itself shows the occurrence mentioned to be exceptional. In the case mentioned, as in all similar cases, *the amount is deducted from the next payment*, so nothing is lost, besides which a strict watch is kept on them to prevent such frauds occurring.

## INACCURACY NO. 15.

Some of the items that make up the accounts are curious, and deserve the consideration of this Parliament. In one of the accounts I find that we paid J. Creighton for a silk handkerchief, 90 cents. Why should we pay for a silk handkerchief on account of the Indians? If the Indians are starved to death, they do not require silk handkerchiefs.

## EXPLANATION.

This criminal handkerchief, which is properly a neck scarf, was purchased to complete a chief's suit as regulated by treaty. The Department was obliged to give this chief this handkerchief. If it had not done so, no doubt we should have heard much of "breaking faith with the Indians."

## INACCURACY NO. 16.

We paid Wm. Williams for repairing boots, \$7.75. We paid Mr. Laurie for football, \$5. If they want to play football, let them buy their own football, and not charge the Indian account with it. We paid for a magic lantern, \$84.15.

## EXPLANATION.

This offending football was supplied for the Indian children at the Industrial School, Battleford, for whom also the repairs were made. The magic lantern was provided to amuse the children of the High River Industrial School, and ought not to form an item in an indictment against the Government.

## INACCURACY NO. 17

We paid Mr. Morin for superintending Indians' fishing, \$135.76. Will any man tell me why we should pay him this sum for doing that? I think the Indians know more about fishing than the Government or their officials do.

## EXPLANATION.

These Indians were sent to fish for the band, and if they had not had an overseer they would have done no more than fish for themselves, so that it was necessary expenditure. The "eye of the master" is as necessary over Indians as over white men.

## INACCURACY NO. 18.

The account was also charged last year with a payment of \$453 for venetian blinds for the Regina Office. A more scandalous account has never

been made than that. \$453 for venetian blinds for a one-horse office in Regina! I venture to say that there is not a Minister's house in Ottawa where all the venetian blinds on the first story cost as much as \$453.

#### EXPLANATION.

There were 31 sets of quadruple blinds, with fixtures, hanging, painting, etc. The account was certified to by the Clerk of Works, Regina, as correct. The cost of the material in the N. W. T. is of course much greater than in Ontario, and therefore the comparison between the price of such articles in Regina and the price in Ontario is not a fair one.

#### INACCURACY No. 19.

We are bound to supply the Indians with a yoke of oxen. Take the Indians under Treaty No. 4. They only obtained seventy-one yoke of oxen in three years. The Indians under Treaty No. 6 obtained, in 1883, forty-five; in 1884, forty-two; and in 1885, forty-two, or 130 yoke of oxen in three years. Now, Mr. Speaker, I ask you, who have been among the Indians and know something of the Indians, can you tell me why the Indian account should be charged in three years with 130 yoke of oxen, although this band of Indians had not, so far as I am able to judge, half a thousand acres under cultivation? It is nothing less than a wilful waste of money. These 130 yoke of oxen cost the people of Canada \$26,470; and many of the oxen were aged, crippled and unfit for work of any kind, so that in a year or so many of them died, and such of them as did not die had to be sold or killed, and then were utterly unfit for food. All this I can prove by extracts from the reports. *Francis Ogiltree, Indian agent, writing of the oxen supplied the Swan Lake band, says:*

The two oxen owned by this band are of very little use, as one of them is blind and the other one is very old.

A. Mackay, Indian agent, speaking of the Berens River band, says:

There are only one ox and one cow alive out of the seven supplied by the Department.

E. McColl, Inspector of Agencies, speaking of the Long Plain band, says:

As the oxen are useless, one blind and one very old, they want the agent to be allowed to exchange them for others.

Thus two agents report the same thing. The truth of the matter is that the oxen, for which we paid this enormous sum, were so useless that they had to be disposed of within the year. The whole thing is an outrage Parliament should not tolerate. The Government should be held to a strict account, and I propose to hold them to a strict account, for this wasteful expenditure of public money.

#### EXPLANATION.

Cattle furnished under Treaties 4 and 6 were given to bands whose reserves are widely separated, which accounts



for the large number required in comparison with the small area of land under cultivation on all the reserves combined.

It may here be pointed out that Mr. Cameron has been talking of cattle belonging to Treaties *four and six*. He goes on to say that many of these cattle were aged, crippled and unfit for work, and how does he substantiate his charges? By quoting extracts from reports of agents for Treaties *one and five*, which allude to *other cattle in far distant places!!*

Even in respect of these latter he states only half the truth. Some cattle in Treaties 1 and 5 are old and crippled it is true, but that is not to be wondered at when it is borne in mind that *some of them have been in use in the service of the Indians from 10 to 15 years*.

The charge underlying Mr. Cameron's words is that the Department have been paying large sums of money for worthless cattle; and he submits, as proof that the cattle are worthless, garbled extracts from agents in other parts of the country concerning other cattle hundreds of miles away, which, though young when purchased, are after 15 years' service no doubt somewhat the worse for wear.

#### INACCURACY No. 20.

I find further that the Indian account is charged with payments to Mr. Baker of \$95 each for three wagons, although I find that the Government could and did buy from these contractors better wagons at \$57.50 each. In other words, the people had to pay, through the Indian account, \$37.50 more for each wagon than they were worth.

#### EXPLANATION.

These charges cannot be found by the accountant, but if made were probably for wagons of different descriptions or for different places involving increased cost of transport.

#### INACCURACY No. 21.

There are still some items to which I would draw, Mr. Speaker, your particular attention. The Indian account is charged a year or two ago with still more curious items. Among them are a table cloth and a napkin for His Grace the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the Northwest, Mr. Dewdney, at \$6.70; it is also charged \$6.50 for washing his blankets; and also with the following items, worthy of notice: 150 yards of cotton, \$21.20;

189 yards of cotton, \$13.62 : painting, varnishing and cleaning coach-house and carriage, \$10; kitchen utensils, \$37.

#### EXPLANATION.

These items are not charged to the Indian account. These are charged to the Northwest Government account and were supplied to Mr. Dewdney as Lieutenant-Governor.

#### INACCURACY No. 22

What have we supplied Mr. Dewdney with? In 1882 the Indian account is charged, for supplies to His Grace, with a horse, \$160; repairs to harness, \$18.25; sundry articles, of which the items are not given, \$146.45; sundries again, \$57.50; two other horses, \$275; two other horses for the commissioner's interpreter, \$165; two horses again for commissioner, \$340; two horses for Mr. Wadsworth, \$110. So that Mr. Dewdney, in that year, got from the Indian department five horses that cost \$775, every one of which was charged to the Indian account.

#### EXPLANATION.

As to the horses supplied Mr. Dewdney, when he has completed his tour, the horses are handed over to such of the farming instructors and agents as require them, and are not kept by Mr. Dewdney, as Mr. Cameron insinuates, at the Government expense. It cannot be expected that Mr. Dewdney will travel on the public service at his own charge.

#### INACCURACY No. 23.

In 1883, the Indian account is charged with another horse for Mr Dewdney, at \$175, and again in the same year with a horse again for the commissioner, at \$100, and a buckboard at \$150. Now, I state here that there is not a gentleman in this House, who knows anything about the Northwest territories, but who will declare that a buckboard, fit for any gentleman to travel in, can be obtained there at from \$40 to \$60; yet the country is charged \$150 for this one. Mr. Dewdney also got another buckboard in that year, at \$80, making two buckboards costing \$230, which he obtained from the Indian fund, in that year, and which were charged to the Indian account. In the following year, I find charged to that account, one set of harness for the commissioner, \$35; another horse for the commissioner, \$150; washing the towels of the commissioner, \$6; two wagons and harness for the two inspectors, \$528. I would like to know what kind of wagons were those two that they should cost \$528? In that year again, there is charged to Indian account, one buckboard, \$117; one wagon and harness, \$100; and another buckboard, \$115. In 1885, another buckboard is charged with one mare for commissiner, \$126; one pair of horses for Mr. Morin, \$365; one buckboard for Mr. Morin, \$90; one horse for Mr. Morin, \$166; one sleigh for commissioner, \$40. Why, every single thing is charged to the

people against the Indian account ; yet Mr. Dewdney draws nearly \$2,000 a year for travelling expenses. In the same year we paid \$1,492 to Baker & Co., and others, for advances made, and this same year \$20,150 was charged to Indian account for travelling expenses.

#### EXPLANATION.

1. The *buckboards* for which a higher price than is usual was paid, were specially fitted up for long journeys and to stand a great deal of travelling.

2. The *towels* were used in the Indian office at Regina, and of course had to be washed and paid for.

3. *The wagons* for Messrs. Wadsworth and McHugh cost \$195, being specially fitted up for prairie travelling, and the two sets of double harness cost \$46.12 and 92.62, respectively.

4. *The buckboard* at \$117 was purchased for the agent at Blackfoot Crossing. The wagon and harness, \$200, were purchased for the agent at Fort McLeod. The buckboard, \$115, was purchased for the agent at Edmonton. The items mentioned as having been furnished Mr. Morin were for the agent at Battleford.

All these and similar charges are paid out of a grant voted by Parliament for the purpose, *and not from sums voted for feeding the Indians.*

#### INACCURACY No. 24.

Among some of the items not open to discussion are the following : P. G. Williams, paid for traveling expenses from Piegan reserve to Crooked Lake, \$103.

#### EXPLANATION.

The gentleman was transferred from Piegan Reserve to Crooked Lake, and consequently the expenses of himself and family had to be paid, just as the travelling expenses of Mr. Laird, Mr. Cameron's friend, were paid when his term of office expired, though of that we hear nothing. The sum was \$1,524, for travelling expenses from Regina to Prince Edward Island.

#### INACCURACY No. 25.

J. A. Hargrave, \$125 for one desk for Winnipeg office. Can you imagine, Sir, the kind of a desk that would cost \$125 for an Indian office. My know-

ledge is too limited to enable me to grasp that. Mr. Wadsworth was allowed \$100 for a buckboard, of which \$40 is the average price.

#### EXPLANATION.

This desk was purchased by Mr. McColl, the Superintendent and Inspector of Indian Reserves at that point. The original cost of the article was \$300. It is a most commodious desk; answers the purpose of cupboards and shelving which the Superintendent had been authorized to purchase, but which, in consequence of having this large desk, he was able to dispense with. Mr. McColl states that it is one of the best and most economical investments that could have been made. An advance on the amount paid for it has been repeatedly offered for it, and can be obtained for it at any time.

#### INACCURACY No. 26.

I now come to a couple of other items, which will be found interesting. Three thousand nine hundred and forty-eight dollars is charged as spent on potatoes for one band of Indians, the Indians under Treaty No. 4. The Indians under Treaty No. 6 are charged with \$473.87 for garden seeds; in 1884 the same Indians are charged with \$742.89 for garden seeds; and in 1885 the same Indians are charged again with \$810.78 for garden seeds, so that, in the three years I have given, these Indians were charged with \$2,027 worth of garden seeds. I mean to say that the Indians never got these seeds to this extent, or if they did it is a scandalous waste of the public, or rather Indian, money. I mean to say, Sir, that \$2,000 worth of garden seeds would seed every garden in the whole North-west, from the boundary of Manitoba to the foot of the Rocky mountains, and then leave enough to seed half the Province of Ontario. And yet these Indians were charged with \$2,000 for garden seed during the past year.

#### EXPLANATION.

With respect to the purchase of potatoes, the Indians will not save their seed potatoes and they have to be provided with a fresh supply almost every year.

As regards the Indians under Treaty No. 4, they are not one band, as Mr. Cameron designates them, but are divided into numerous bands living on reserves at long distances from one another. It is simply absurd to speak of Indians thus situated as one band.

As to the cost of garden seeds for the Indians of Treaty No. 6, it must be remembered that these Indians are scat-

tered from Fort a la Corne westward to Edmonton, and the transport of these seeds is equal to and sometimes exceeds the original cost of the article.

The statement that the Indians did not receive this seed is untrue. The Departmental system of checking precludes the possibility of such a thing. If by any chance it did happen, the contractor would have to make it good.

All of Mr. Cameron's statements have now been examined. The reader must judge for himself of Mr. Cameron's motive in presenting them as they have been presented. It has been seen that the facts have been shamefully misrepresented. Expenditures in the Northwest must not be judged by the rule which would apply to expenditures in the Provinces. The distances there are great and freight charges enormous. The difficulties of conveying supplies are sometimes almost insuperable; and, instead of meriting abuse and misrepresentation, the officials of the Government in that country have earned the gratitude of the people for the work they have accomplished, the privations they have endured, and for their tact and ability in dealing with the Indians.

The expenditures are very large; but it may reasonably be hoped that, as the country becomes opened up and as the Indians acquire habits of industry, smaller sums will suffice. It will be noticed that when ample supplies of food and other articles have been given, Mr. Cameron condemns the Government because of the expense; and where the Indians have not been wholly supported, even under exceptional circumstances, he asserts that a "policy of starvation" has been enforced. The reader must say whether, in his opinion, Mr. Cameron has endeavored to discuss this question fairly and honorably, or whether he has intended to deceive the public. Whatever his intent may have been, it is evident that his charges against the Government, against its officers, and against the administration of Indian affairs in the Northwest, have no substantial foundation in facts.

## THE INDIANS AND THE REBELLION.

Mr. Cameron makes an elaborate attempt, by summing up all that he had said in the preceding portions of his speech, to prove that the Indians were driven to rebel in March, 1885, by the harsh and cruel measures of the Government, and of officials towards them. As has already been proved by every species of evidence worthy of acceptance by reasonable men, this alleged cruelty of treatment had no existence. As everybody knows, the Indians did not rebel; but a very small number of them joined in the insurrection. It is untrue that the instructors who were killed at Frog Lake, were men who oppressed the Indians. Mr. Cameron, the young man who was present, and who escaped with his life, after rendering good service in saving the lives of the women, declares with much emphasis, that he was intimate with the late Mr. Quinn, the Indian Department agent, there; that he never saw him, or knew of him ill treating an Indian; and that Delany, the other man who was killed, was, as a rule, beloved by the Indians. The Deputy of the Superintendent General of Indian affairs, also says that when he was through that country in 1885 Mr. Delany was spoken of as a man who always treated the Indians well and kindly. As respects Payne, it may be said that he was killed on the Stoney Reserve in the discharge of his duty. It was brought out in evidence that an Indian shot him because he refused to give up to him some Government stores, over which he was placed in charge. Payne was married to a Stoney chief's daughter.

Mr. Cameron makes use of Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney's report as against the Lieutenant-Governor himself, in a way that is most unjustifiable. He says:

The First Minister of this Dominion has over and over again declared in Parliament that Governor Dewdney was the best official in the whole Northwest to deal with the Indians. I take issue with the First Minister on that question. I say he is the most dangerous and worst official that ever this incompetent and reckless Government appointed to fulfil any position of trust in the Northwest territories. But let us see what Governor Dewdney

says of the Indians of the plain in connection with the insurrection. In his report of the present year he makes use of the following language :

The bands implicated in the rebellion were those of One Arrow, Beardy, Okemasis, and part of Petequakeys, in the Carleton district, and the whole of the Indians in the Battleford and Fort Pitt districts, excepting Moosomin's and part of Thunder Child's, the latter refusing to approach the rebel camps until starvation drove him and his followers to do so.

So, Sir, you have, out of the mouth of the Lieutenant-Governor himself, the statement that these Indians refused to join the rebel camp until starvation compelled them to do so. You have the statement out of the mouth of the commissioner that starvation compelled the chief of this band, and the whole of his followers, to join the armed insurrection.

*Thunder Child* and *Moosmin's* bands remained loyal throughout, notwithstanding they were in the midst of great temptation, and Mr. Cameron's misrepresentation of Mr. Dewdney's remarks regarding them, is perhaps the worst specimen of its kind we have yet met with, which is saying a good deal. These chiefs left their reserves and moved north with their people so as to be out of the way of disturbance. The farming instructor was a prisoner, and they being away from their reserves could get no food. When they ran out of provisions they feared to go near Battleford barracks, thinking that the incensed settlers would not make any discrimination between loyal and disloyal Indians, and so to save themselves from starvation they were forced to go into Poundmaker's camp to get food and for no other purpose. Mr. Cameron's misuse of the language of Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney, is scandalous in the extreme.

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#### THE CHARGES AGAINST LT.-GOV. DEWDNEY.

The charges against Lieut.-Governor Dewdney have been many and bitter, and Mr. Cameron makes a characteristic use of all the assaults, anonymous and otherwise that have been made against an official whose one defence, and that a perfect one, against all such attacks is, that he has always and fearlessly done his duty. It may be worth the space it will occupy to particularize the charges and the

reply in the same manner as has been adopted hereinbefore.

#### CHARGE NO. 1.

The Indians have no faith in Commissioner Dewdney, they have faith in but few of the officials of the North-west territories, but none in Commissioner Dewdney; they know him too well; they have been deceived by him too often. He has been charged, and correctly charged, with being domineering, arrogant, tyrannical, unfair, untruthful in his dealings with the Indians. With such a commissioner, and with a similar class of officials, we could expect nothing less than uneasiness, dissatisfaction, discontent, and ultimate rebellion in the North-west Territory.

#### REPLY.

The *Edmonton Bulletin*, a paper that has never been friendly to Mr. Dewdney, says of him on the 8th November, 1884, in regard to his meeting the Bear's Hill Indians.

It may be said that never in this part of the North-west was there such an important and at the same time satisfactory meeting. The Indians themselves were astonished by the patience and benignity with which the Governor listened to their importunities and the more than generous way in which he met their demands.

#### CHARGE NO. 2.

Mr. Cameron, on the authority of the *Winnipeg Times*, makes the statement that when Long Lodge said "the bacon was hurting his people because it was not their food," Mr. Dewdney said "the Indians should eat the bacon or die, and be d—d to them."

#### REPLY.

Mr. Dewdney declares that this statement is absolutely false; and no evidence of its being true, or near the truth, or anything approaching to the truth, has ever been offered. It is simply a piece of jocular brutality invented by some local jester to injure Mr. Dewdney. Mr. Cameron knew when he repeated this stale charge that it had been indignantly denied repeatedly.

#### CHARGE NO. 3.

The *Ottawa Sun*, another paper not unfriendly to this Administration, speaking of the officials of the North-west, says:

Junius tells us something about public men who suddenly became rich, which may be properly applied to Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney. That gentleman, when he came to Ottawa in 1872, was practically a pauper. To-day he is a wealthy man. He did not save his wealth out of his salary. When he personally drove off the settlers from the county of Kent, who had gone in under very great difficulties and at great expense at a trying season



of the year, built houses, and started to break land for cultivation—when he insulted men who went in mistaken confidence to him for protection against the outrage perpetrated by Major Bell—he was at the time, it is alleged, in receipt of a present of \$10,000 in the stock of the Bell Farming Company.

#### REPLY.

An affidavit made by the secretary of the Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Co. shows :

1. That Mr. Dewdney was one of the original shareholders in this Company.

2. That he entered the Company as an ordinary stockholder, without privilege of any kind.

3. That he received no payment, either in stock or cash, nor did anyone else for him, nor did he or they, directly or indirectly receive any stock, cash, bonus, or reward or benefit from the said Company, nor from any one else.

4. That the Company have received no favors from Mr. Dewdney, nor has he ever taken an active interest in its affairs, nor has he ever received one cent therefrom, nor does he exercise, nor has he any position other than an ordinary shareholder.

Mr. Dewdney has paid for his stock in the Bell Farming Company, just as every other stockholder has paid, and to just the same extent in proportion to the stock held by him.

#### CHARGE NO. 4.

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

Everything is quiet, there is no danger. I say that if the Indian agents were not in a position then to tell what was the state of the Indian mind at that time, then they were unfit for the position they held ; and a stronger argument that the Chief of the Department was not fit for his post I do not want than that he allowed his Indian agents to persuade him that everything was peaceable and quiet, while the whole thing was a seething volcano, ready to burst forth at any moment, and Mr. Dewdney was the only innocent man in the country. That shows that things in the Indian Department are rotten to the core, and should be weeded out (Hear, hear.) Had he exercised his proper functions, and done what was expected of him, the Government would have been induced, because of the gravity of the situation, to deal with the matter, and thus have averted this great rebellion.

## REPLY.

Mr. Jackson's animus arises from Mr. Dewdney's resistance to his attempts to speculate in certain lands, set aside by arrangement with the Indians as a treaty reserve.

## CHARGE No. 5.

Mr. Cameron's charges against Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney were all made on the authority of the speech of the said Mr. Jackson, delivered in December, 1885, at a meeting of the Northwest council. Mr. Jackson was very emphatic in contending that Governor Dewdney had allowed the Indians to starve to death.

## REPLY.

In a speech delivered at the same meeting, Governor Dewdney, by unanimous permission of the Council, delivered an address which may here be summarised. He showed—

1. That Mr. Jackson had based his attack on rumors and not on facts.

2. That Mr. Jackson was masquerading when he professed to have no personal animus against himself and no hostility to the Dominion Government.

3. That the Indians among whom some died of starvation some years ago, were a band of Indians mostly consisting of old widows and children, whom Pie-a-Pot had collected to increase his annuity, and they died not because there were no supplies, but because when they came in they were so diseased they could not eat any kind of food.

4. That at the time these Indians were alleged to have died of starvation there were on their reserves 231 sacks of flour, 6,999 pounds of bacon, 160 pounds of beef, besides a quantity of tea, tobacco and ammunition.

5. That in the case of the Assiniboines, among whom it was, from other sources, alleged that starvation existed, these people were at that very time receiving among 294 of them, from the 15th to the 31st July, 43 sacks of flour, 954 pounds of bacon, and 1,650 pounds of beef. At this time they also received 30 pounds of powder, 120 pounds of shot, 1000 caps; and game ducks were plentiful, one

squaw having killed, in four days, 700 of them. The deaths were, two from consumption, one baby, and one young girl.

6. That Mr. Jackson's enmity was due entirely to the fact that Mr. Dewdney had prevented him from speculating in Indian lands.

The meeting of the Council ended in the adoption of a vote of confidence in the Indian policy of the Government.

#### CHARGE NO. 6.

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

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

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

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

#### REPLY.

At the time Mr. Jackson made his second attack against the Indian Department in the Northwest Council, he assured Mr. Dewdney that it was not a personal one. It was, however, made against the Government of the day, after a threat that if he was not reimbursed by the Government for what he considered a loss he had incurred by Mr. Dewdney's action in 1885 on his speculation, *he would "make it warm in the Northwest Council for the present Government."*

#### CHARGE NO. 7.

Mr. Jackson, in his speech to which I have already referred, said :

Now, I charge that at Indian Head, in the winter of 1883, several of the Indians died of starvation. When I stated that fact, I knew it to be a fact. The Lieutenant-Governor in his reply to me, brings a lot of documents and the report of Dr. Edwards says that five men starved to death. Mr. Dewdney said there was so much provisions at Indian Head. I know they were there ; but his fiat had gone forth not to feed them so much, that Pie-a-pot was a bad piece of muslin, and that they must cut down the rations. And now, instead of five dying, it is a matter of my own knowledge, a matter I can prove on oath, that instead of five dying there, ten per cent. of all the Indians on the Indian Head reserve died through starvation in six months (that is twenty per cent. per annum). He became very anxious about the File Hill Indians. What has he done with them because of their turbulency,

because they showed a disposition, perhaps, to rise up and join the Indians of the north in fighting? *He has reduced them at the present time to that state that in the case of one Indian (I am prepared to prove this and to give the name of the man too), within two months seven of his children died because they had not got the necessaries of life.* I tell you what I know to be a fact. The Indians on the File Hills reserve believe that if one of their number falls sick there is no use in trying to make him get well, they have not sufficient nourishing food and they must die.

#### REPLY.

With reference to the report that the File Hill Indians were starving to death, an extract is submitted from a letter dated the 15th February, 1886, from Dr. Edwards whose name has been so unwarrantably used in this matter. After visiting the File Hill Indians, he wrote as follows:

I never before saw them in a better physical condition. Out of over 400 Indians I only found seven cases of sickness. *I found the statement so positively made by Mr. Jackson at Fort Qu'Appelle, that seven children in one family in the File Hill reserve had died in two months, of which statement he then said he had absolute proof, to possess the quality of most of his revelations—a slight amount of truth with a vast amount of error.* The truth is one child had lately died and had been buried, and according to Indian custom the mother had given away her clothes, and clad in the worst possible garments, in company with the father and an additional squaw, had gone to Fort Qu'Appelle, and thus the story of their destitution had originated. There was no proof that the Indians had been frozen.

*The statement that the Indians of that Reserve were starving is absolutely false.* I found the rations regularly and sufficiently distributed, and everywhere I saw only signs of plenty and contentment. Powder and shot had been given out, and in nearly every house visited there was evidence that in addition to the bacon and flour there was a plentiful supply of rabbits.

*My visit was such that I cannot in too strong language declare the statements lately made at Fort Qu'Appelle relating to these Indians to be maliciously false.*

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#### CONCLUSION.

The examination of Mr. Cameron's speech is now ended, and it does not become necessary to tell the reader what the results of that examination have been. It was affirmed at the outset that a Member of Parliament, debating any public question, ought to consider that question solely on public grounds, that he should cite all the facts bearing on the subject within his knowledge, and that he

should tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth respecting it. The reader is now in a position to judge whether Mr. Cameron has complied with these plain requirements, or whether he has made a blind partisan harangue, has suppressed facts within his knowledge, has unfairly used extracts wrenched from their context, has changed and garbled other extracts, and has absolutely invented passages affirmed by him to be bona fide extracts from reports and other public documents.

It was submitted that in approaching a subject so dangerous as the Indian question, a patriotic man would say nothing to induce the Indians to believe they had been wronged unless he was quite sure of his facts, and not even then unless he had reason to think that the good resulting from discussion would outweigh the danger of precipitating an Indian rising. The reader has been placed in a position to judge whether Mr. Cameron was or was not sure of his facts. It is believed few will come to any other conclusion than that the honorable gentleman from West Huron was quite sure his statements were not facts. His motive must remain his own secret; but it may be said that a furious and unscrupulous man desiring to incite an Indian rebellion would have employed language such as Mr. Cameron employed. Let it be borne in mind that if the statements made are, without exception, false, only a few of the Indians can know them to be false. The Indian who knows that he and his immediate companions have been well treated, will believe from the averments of the speech that all other Indians in the Northwest have been shamefully abused. It may be said that the Indians do not read, and hence, that the speech, no matter how untrue its statements and incendiary its appeals, cannot influence their action. This, however, is not borne out by experience. It has been found that Indians in very remote districts have been kept informed of occurrences at Ottawa and in other places, and even of current discussion respecting them. Mr. Cameron's speech was printed, not only in

the Parliamentary Debates, but in pamphlet form, and many thousand copies of it circulated. It is unfortunately too true that some people in the Northwest would be gainers by an Indian outbreak; and it is certain that these persons will make the Indians acquainted with the speech prepared with such care to inflame them against the whites. Not only is the speech carefully prepared to make Indians believe they have been atrociously treated, but it is filled with special appeals to them to rise in rebellion. Following are a few of the most incendiary utterances. They are extracted from different parts of the address:

Writers upon the Indian question, and especially such writers as the authoress of "One Hundred Years of Dishonor," speak of the Indians as easily managed, peaceable, quiet, inoffensive, docile, so long as he is fairly and honestly treated; but as faithless turbulent and rebellious when he is injured, when he is deceived, when he is wronged, when he is degraded.

With such a commission, and with a similar class of officials, we could expect nothing else than uneasiness, dissatisfaction, and discontent among the Indians, which ultimately broke out into open rebellion.

I say it is a marvel to me, not that the Indians took up arms against the sovereign power of this country, but the marvel to me is that long years ago the Indians did not protest in the only way known to them against the misconduct, maladministration, incapacity, and culpable neglect of this Administration.

I say again that to my mind the marvel is, that years ago, the Indians did not use the tomahawk and scalping knife, and clean out of the Northwest territories the lazy, indolent and incompetent class of officials who have been appointed by this administration to administer Indian affairs in the Northwest territories.

I solemnly believe that, from the testimony that comes from the Northwest, that this Dominion is standing on the brink of a volcano which may burst forth at any moment.

If you refer to the account of the contractor for supplies to the Indians you will find that they are bound to supply articles of a reasonably fair quality. Instead of doing so they supplied the Indian chiefs and councillors with an article that lasted them but three days; and yet we are surprised that the Indians are dissatisfied and discontented, and that they have broken out into revolt, as they may break out into revolt again.

With this cruel and brutal treatment of the Indians, with this cruel and brutal report of agent Herchmer, and with the admission of Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney, need any one wonder that the Indians are dissatisfied and discontented?

Nothing but discontent and dissatisfaction and rebellion could be expected from the course pursued by the honorable gentlemen opposite.

Mr. Cameron has prepared a mass of statements absolutely astounding in their untruth. He has prepared them in such a way as to cause discontent and dissatisfaction among people who are, as he himself says, "faithless, turbulent and rebellious," when they believe they are wronged. And he has absolutely, in express terms, invited those Indians to rise in rebellion, and to murder the Government officials sent to care for and to educate them.

The charges preferred against the Government and against its officials have been disposed of. Not one of them remains. It is not a pleasant task to deal with charges which not even the most comprehensive charity can suppose were believed by the author of them to be true. It has not been a pleasant task to deal with a public man who cannot for a moment be supposed to have thought he was dealing fairly or honestly with the subject he took in hand. But the unpleasant duty has been performed, and the result is now placed in the hands of the patriotic and fair-minded reader, asking simply for his verdict upon the Indian Administration of the Government, after a careful review of all the facts.

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## THE QUESTION OF THE FLOUR.

Having dealt with the speech of Mr. Cameron it may be proper to consider that of Mr. Paterson, of Brant, respecting flour of inferior quality delivered to Blood Indians in 1883. His text was a report made by Dr. Girard, who said :

Since the 27th of September, over twenty deaths occurred on that (the Blood) reserve, and most of them from the same complaints—erysipelas, swelling of the glands of the neck, dyspepsia, etc. On all the reserves, except that of the Stonies, I found the houses of the Indians too close one to another, and on the first occasion I shall advise them to pull them down another year and have a space of about 100 feet between each house. The beef issued is of first quality, but the supply of flour is very poor and of bad quality. The instructor told me he used some of it and the dough, though prepared with hop yeast, made a poor and doughy bread. The quantity now on hand will just last till May or June next. I pity them.

On the strength of this testimony, Mr. Paterson argued at great length that the Government was supplying the Indians with food which caused sickness and death.

It will be noticed that there is some disagreement between Mr. Paterson and Mr. Cameron. The latter says they could not get beef and were forced to eat pork. "The beef," says Mr. Paterson's witness, "is of first rate quality, but the flour is bad." "The flour," says Mr. Paterson, "spread disease and death among the Indians of the North-west territories."

Now there is no allegation that the bad flour was supplied on more than one reserve; and if the "disease and death" were common to the "Indians of the North-West territories," it is evident that the bad flour was not the cause. The effect could not be more extensive than the cause. Again Dr. Girard, while certainly affirming that the flour was bad, does not say that the bad flour caused the disease and death. He says he found bronchitis; but it will hardly be affirmed that bad flour will cause bronchitis. He says he found erysipelas, a contagious disease; he found swelling of the glands of the neck, probably a scrofulous disease; and he found dyspepsia. The last might be caused by bad flour; but it is more probable that the fact of the Indians crowding themselves into close houses, immoderately warmed, refusing to take proper exercise, and leaving heaps of filth in and around their dwellings, caused all the disease reported by Dr. Girard.

Still it is the fact that some flour was supplied to these Indians which was below the standard required by the Department, and inferior to that which the contractors agreed to deliver.

It is also a fact that some flour was kept over from one year to another; that it became wet and unfit for food. This flour was not issued to the Indians as part of their rations at all. But, as there would be a little good flour in the center of a lump of bad flour, it was given to some non-



treaty Indians to make what they could of it. If only a small portion of it was edible, there was no reason why that small portion should not be eaten by somebody. But this flour was not given as any part of the regular supply.

Now, as to the inferior flour which undoubtedly was delivered: Inspector Wadsworth reported upon the subject on the 25th January, 1884. He said:

I was satisfied that the flour upon the Blood and Piegan reserve was of fair quality and filled the spirit of the contract, although I came upon an occasional sack that was inferior, but they would not amount to one per cent of the whole. \* \* \* My opinion of this flour is that it is barely No. 1 superfine, and that there is some frozen wheat in it. I do not consider it unwholesome. The white men on the reserve were using it and did not complain. I ate some of it (bread made from it) and found it palatable. Compared with No. 1 superfine at \$2.25 per sack, I consider this worth \$2.10. \* \* \* I do not think the flour has been the cause of the disease lately epidemic among the Indians of this district.

The Department was convinced that the flour was not equal to the quality which the contractors had agreed to deliver, and a deduction was made from the price paid. \$2,500 was taken from the price of 715 sacks. We see, then that some inferior flour *was* delivered. The fact was promptly referred to the Government, and without any delay an inquiry was ordered. The flour was shown to be inferior, and a deduction of nearly \$3.50 was made from the price of each sack. The affair proves, not that the distribution of inferior supplies is common, or even frequent, but that when inferior food is supplied the fact is at once reported, examination is promptly made, the evil is corrected and the contractors are fined. An exceptional irregularity of this sort proves that watchful care is exercised in securing for the Indians all the supplies to which they are entitled, and supplies of good quality.

Still, if the flour really caused disease and death among the Indians on the Blood reserve, the fining of the contractors does not secure full justice. But it will be seen that Dr. Girard does not say the flour caused disease and death. He found disease and death, and he found inferior

flour. The charge that the flour caused the disease and death comes from Mr. Patterson, who never saw the flour, who never visited the reserve, and who knows no more of the affair than he gathered from the official reports.

Now, there were ample cause for the disease and death without aid from the flour at all. The Indians live in filthy and crowded houses, they refuse taking proper exercise, and they are dirty in their persons. Let their flour be never so good, they do not make wholesome bread with it. They simply mix the flour with a little water, any fry it in tallow or other grease, using no leaven of any kind. Of course, it is heavy and indigestible; and the dyspepsia reported by Dr. Girard is accounted for by it.

The diseases which afflicted the Bloods and Piegans in that year spread to other reserves to which this inferior flour was not supplied, as well as to non-treaty Indians in Canada and the Indians south of the line who received rations from the United States government.

Again, white people used some of this very flour, and they were not afflicted with the diseases which proved so fatal among the Indians.

Seeing then, that the Indians who did not use this inferior flour, shared the diseases complained of, and that white settlers who did use the flour escaped them; seeing that their were ample causes for the disease without seeking them in the flour; and seeing bad flour would cause only one of the diseases which prevailed among the Indians, the reader will have no difficulty in reaching the conclusion that this lot of inferior flour did not "spread disease and death among the Indians of the Northwest."











