

transfer would cause endless complications, and in order to prevent same it is incumbent on the department to issue grants only to the Indians found entitled to receive same.

F. PEDLEY.

In face of this letter and nearly a year before the survey was made or patents were issued the government officials were active in assisting the speculators who were buying lands to locate them by the use of the old parish plans. It was the use of the old parish plans that was the cause of the delay on the part of the Registrar General. He dare not take the responsibility of issuing certificates on those plans. The surrender was obtained on the 24th of September, 1907, and the land speculators began buying Indian allotments a very short time after, nearly a year before any survey was made or patents issued. The government through its agents at Selkirk, was apparently so anxious to assist the men who were getting the Indians' lands that they located and described these lands from the old parish plans, which act has really caused all the delay in the issuing of the titles by the Registrar General of Manitoba. After the new survey was made it was found by the Registrar General of Manitoba that the old parish plans did not fit in with the survey. So, he refused, and quite correctly, to issue certificates until a proper plan was filed, which has not been filed up to the present time, and as he pointed out it may make necessary the recalling of all patents that had been issued. Something over 400 patents—I think I speak advisedly and the minister can correct me if I am wrong—have been issued and apparently issued on plans that were improper and consequently he would likely find that the descriptions of these separate lots would be entirely wrong. The Registrar General points out that it will likely be necessary to ask the government to recall all these patents and to make them out under a proper survey. This state of affairs was brought about, as I have said before, by the government's anxiety to get the lands away from the Indians and into the hands of a few friends.

The government through its agents assisted the land speculators at every turn to get the Indian allotments and this fully a year before the patents were issued, although Mr. Pedley the Superintendent General had written the letter I referred to, warning the general public that the Indian had nothing to sell until his patent issued. After that letter was written and after it was published broadcast and after the public were frightened to invest a dollar, being told plainly the Indian had nothing to sell until his patent issued, in face of that, the government's agents with the three or four men in whose favour this

Mr. BRADBURY.

deal was apparently intended, immediately went to work and in the face of that warning began to buy up these allotments through the assistance of the government agent at Selkirk, and some of them have become rich through this deal. I state now that the government has not dealt fairly with the men who were allowed to get these lands. It persuaded these men to take these lands and helped them to get possession of them and now when the government is itself, in a hole, it leaves these men in a hole and refuses to furnish proper plans to enable the Registrar General of Manitoba to give these men the titles to the lands they purchased. No doubt the government realizes the position they are placed in, and realizes too that this whole transaction is illegal. I understand the plan has been made for that survey and has been lying in the department for months completed, and has never been forwarded to the Registrar General that he might be enabled to grant titles to these men who secured these lands. I say that the minister is responsible for this delay in the holding up of these titles to all of these lands. That is another phase of this question which demands a thorough investigation. I see no other way to settle this transaction than the appointment by the government of a royal commission to go into the whole matter. There is another very important phase of this question to be found in the report of Chief Justice Howell, which no doubt the minister knows about. In that report Chief Justice Howell points out clearly to my mind that these Indians were the absolute owners of the old parish of St. Peters regardless of their rights as Indians. Under the Manitoba Act they were the owners of these lands according to Chief Justice Howell's report, if I understand it aright. To make myself clear, I had better read a few paragraphs from that report, and if the minister has not already read it, I would like him to listen. Chief Justice Howell says:

Pursuant to the commission above mentioned, I commenced investigation of the matters therein referred to by holding a first meeting at Selkirk, on the 24th day of December, 1906, in the presence of Mr. Clark, counsel for the Indian band and Mr. Heap, appearing for various claimants.

I have never said one word about these counsels that were employed, but I would like to ask the minister what Mr. Clark did to protect or save the Indians. He was appointed by the government and paid by the government something like \$1,800 to protect the rights of the Indians and there is not a word of protest from Mr. Clark that I have found in all the correspondence, against this rascally transaction. I do not understand what his duties