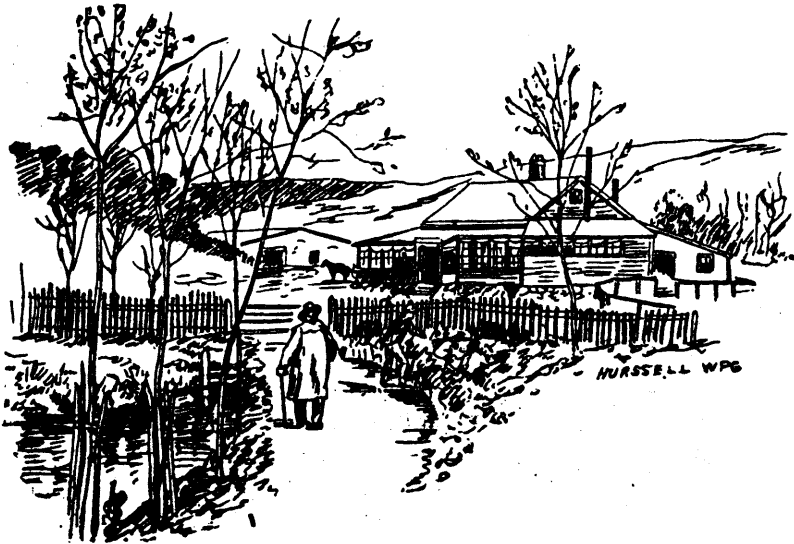


Riel's command, even to the shooting party, who reddened the snow outside the walls of Fort Garry with the blood of poor Scott. I do not mean to convey the idea that this free grant in lands was given for their services as rebels; they got it however notwithstanding; and in addition their leader Riel, the president of the provincial government and commander-in-chief, under the aforesaid hierarchy, received six hundred pounds sterling, from Sir John A. Macdonald, through Bishop Tache, the duly appointed agent of the government for the iniquitous purpose, on condition that he, Riel, should take a leisurely trip out of the country, and politically save

land to the officers and men of the Red river expedition for their valued and patriotic services to the Queen and country. Officers and men were treated alike. It appears to have been the policy of the militia department then as it undoubtedly is now, to bring the officers down to the level of the men, instead of bringing the men up to the level of the officers. How thankful must have been those officers, many of whom wore out more clothing on the route, than would purchase 500 acres near Winnipeg, at the price land was then, to find themselves so handsomely rewarded. How thankful must have been those lawyers, doctors, teachers and bank



HOMESTEAD OF LOUIS RIEL.

the government from the wrath of its Ontario supporters; but after he pocketed the money, Riel and his associate murderers preferred to remain in the province, and the former became the unanimously elected representative of the French country of Provencher in the House of Commons of Canada.

The government was also induced to bestow a free grant of 160 acres of

clerks, who gave up permanent positions to join the Red River expedition, to suddenly find themselves through the liberality of the government, the owners of real estate of 160 acres, the market value of which, in those days ranged from the price of a ham of American bacon or a sack of flour, up to ten or fifteen dollars cash. The writer knows one volunteer who offered