

THE HALF-BREED QUESTION.

Exhaustive Analysis of the Alleged Grievances

OF THE ST. LAURENT SETTLERS.

Only Twenty in the District Entitled to Scrip.

THE TIMBER DUES AND HAY PERMITS.

Riel's Council Proved to Have no Claims —Neglect of the Half-breeds to Make Entry for Lands.

On the afternoon of April 15, the Minister of the Interior presented the following report in the House of Commons:—

PRINCE ALBERT, N.W.T.,
December 14, 1885. }

*Hon. Thomas White, Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa, Ont.*

SIR,—In accordance with instructions received from you during your late visit to the Northwest, that I should, during my present visit to this district, collect all possible information regarding the alleged causes of the recent unfortunate outbreak in the Northwest, I have the honor to report as follows. The six alleged causes are the following:—

1. That the half-breed settlers did not receive patents for their lands through delays, the fault solely of the Government, which rendered it impossible for them to obtain entry for the lands settled upon;

2. That owing to the system of surveys, these parties were unable to obtain the land they had settled on and improved prior to survey;

3. That they were entitled to the same right as has been accorded to the half-breeds of Manitoba;

4. That the lands on which they had for years resided had been sold over their heads to others, chiefly speculators;

5. That the timber dues have proved very onerous to them, and were a grave cause of dissatisfaction; and

6. That the dues for cutting hay on Government lands were also onerous, and a cause of great dissatisfaction.

The half-breed outbreak has been confined wholly to those living on the south branch of the Saskatchewan river, above range 26 west of the second meridian, and those in the vicinity of and immediately west of that river, in the neighborhood of Duck lake, as shown by the list enclosed, prepared with great care and from the best information possible. Louis Marion, a very intelligent half-breed, who has lived in the vicinity of Duck Lake since 1880; Louis Schmidt, a half-breed, who lived from 1881 to 1884 in township 45, range 1, west third; Baptiste Boyer, a half-breed, who, during the past ten years, has lived in the vicinity of Batoche, and George Duck, lately agent of Dominion lands, Prince Albert, are my authorities for other information than that which has been obtained from the affidavits of the parties themselves, it being necessary to obtain information from other sources than the said affidavits, as many of the claimants have not come forward, although repeatedly requested to do so, and give evidence in support of their land claims. The lists include, I think, every half-breed who is a settler on or claimant to land in that district, and who, with their families, constituted probably upwards of 95 per cent