

received a letter from a member of the Legislature informing me that there exists considerable agitation on the subject; and it is therefore very advisable that the question should be arranged as soon as practicable. The Province is young yet, but has immense capabilities for progress, and it no doubt will fill an important place in the future among the members of the Confederation. It is, therefore, very necessary that every care should be taken to remove all causes of dissatisfaction in the Province, especially with respect to the public lands. The people of Manitoba do not yet thoroughly understand all the laws and regulations with respect to the question, but they are loyal and honest. When an engagement has been solemnly entered into, they believe it ought to be carried out as soon as possible; and therefore they are very anxious on the subject of the division of the land grant made some time ago. It is for the interest of the Government and of the whole Confederation to deal with this question as expeditiously as possible. No portion of the people of the Dominion are more attached to the institutions which they now enjoy; and I hope to be able to return to them with the knowledge that their just claims have been granted by the Government. With these remarks I ask permission to inquire—Whether the Government have adopted measures:

1st. For putting an end to the existing difficulties and confusion in the Province of Manitoba on the subject of the public lands.

2nd. For the division, as soon as possible of the 1,400,000 acres of land appropriated for the half-breed residents of Manitoba among those who have a right thereto, and if not, what measure the Government intend to adopt for the purpose of putting an end to these difficulties?

Hon. Mr. AIKINS—In respect to the first question, I may say that the Government have adopted measures for allaying any discontent that may at present exist in the Province. It is well understood that the half-breed lands could not be selected until the surveys were sufficiently far advanced. During the past year some twenty surveyors were sent into the Province, and the work has been very energetically prosecuted, as the map I shall now lay on the table will clearly show. These surveys are now sufficiently far advanced to enable a selection of the lands to be made. The Lieutenant Governor has been communicated with, and asked to make the selection. The rights of

existing settlers are to be respected—certain sections are to be retained in certain townships for the Hudson's Bay Company—also a certain section for school purposes. The wood lands are also to be divided so that a portion will be retained for the use of immigrants. With reference to the second question, I may reply that until the rear line of the settlements was fixed, the allotment could not be made. Instructions have been given by the department to complete this rear line as soon as possible, and it is expected that by the fall patents will be issued to at least one half of the half-breeds. I may also add that the services of some fifty surveyors have been obtained—some of them have already gone—to hasten the surveys of the Province.

INLAND FISHERIES.

Hon. Mr. FLINT asked the Government when it is their intention to take steps to protect the Salmon and other fish in the lakes and streams in the rear part of the County of Frontenac, United Counties of Lennox and Addington, County of Hastings and Peterborough, from destruction, caused by parties employed in taking them with spears and nets contrary to the Fishery Act, and if so, whether that action will be immediate?

My reason for making this enquiry, he said, is that our rivers and lakes are well stocked with salmon and salmon trout which are, every spring and fall, taken by spears and nets in large quantities by foreigners who come from the other side of the line. I have been credibly informed that one hundred tons were taken during last fall to the United States from one place. Representations have been made on the subject to the Fishery Department, but the Fishery Agent has not yet received instructions to deal with the matter, and consequently I am constrained to make this enquiry at the present time, when there is urgent need that some steps should be taken to prevent these encroachments by foreigners.

Hon. Mr. MITCHELL—I may state in answer to the hon. gentleman that the Government are very anxious to protect the inland fisheries, and have done their best to accomplish the object they have in view. No doubt these encroachments are very extensive, but it is very difficult for the Department, with the small sum of money and staff at their disposal, to protect effectually all the waters of so extensive an area as that watered by the St. Lawrence and great lakes. One of the great difficulties that the Department have to contend