

claims for which deeds have been granted in Western Canada have been located in person, as the law demands, by the halfbreeds to whom the scrip was issued.

Even to this day it would seem that this species of fraud is being practised. Only last year the charge was openly made by one dealer, that another had been guilty of this very practice. With this exception, however, the days of open fraud in scrip purchase are past forever. Today, the halfbreed has a much better knowledge of the value of his certificate, and a much wider appreciation of the ability of the law to protect him in his business transactions.

Yet even now, the halfbreed does not by any means get the full value of his scrip. Within the past two years, scrip has been purchased at the point of issue for from two hundred to four hundred dollars, while worth at the time in Winnipeg from eighteen hundred to two thousand dollars,—the value of a certificate for two hundred and forty acres at \$7.50 to \$8.50 per acre. The price asked in Winnipeg for scrip today is \$9.50 per acre.

There are three kinds of scrip issued by the Dominion government. The first is comparatively rare, and unimportant. It is an undertaking on the part of the government to accept at its face value the certificate, which is given out, for services rendered, by government surveyors and other employees of the Dominion in remote places where real money does not circulate. This is called cash scrip, and is issued in varying amounts to suit the service for which it is remuneration.

The second, and by far the most desirable of all scrip, is that which is called "red-back." This is a land scrip, similar to the ordinary halfbreed scrip, for two hundred and forty acres; but it differs from the other and most prevalent form in that it does not require personal application on the part of the person to whom the scrip

is issued. The possession of this kind of scrip thus does away with the trouble and expense of transporting the original owner to the spot where the entry for the land is to be made. Red-back scrip is the scrip which was issued to the halfbreeds who were proved to be entitled to its issue, but who had left the country—usually for the United States—and for whom it would have entailed some hardship to have been compelled to make the long journey back to Western Canada to enter in person for their land.

The third kind of scrip, in which there is most traffic, is that issued to halfbreeds resident in the country, with the condition that personal entry must be made when the land is located.

The halfbreeds who are entitled to scrip are not yet all settled with by any means. Every new treaty made by the Dominion government with the Indians of a hitherto uncaded portion of the Dominion, finds some few halfbreeds resident in that particular territory, with whom settlement must be made on the same terms as those granted their brethren in the older portions of the West. These treaties are being made annually; and every summer Inspector Semmens, who as the senior officer of the Indian Department in the West holds the appointment of Commissioner to conclude treaty with the Indians, adds a hundred thousand or so square miles to the area in which the Indians have been brought by treaty under the care of the Indian Department.

Halfbreeds born in the ceded territory, and halfbreeds resident therein who have not previously been settled with, make their applications before the Commissioner. Their parentage is traced back, the record of their residence in the country since birth to the present time is recorded, birth certificates or baptismal certificates are obtained, and the application, with its evidence of the halfbreed's claim on