

conformed to the survey as then made; five were settled on river lots in Laurent parish, and early in March, 1857, they were notified to come forward to make entry and obtain patents if entered thereto. They were assured in May, 1854, by Mr. George Duck and by myself in January and February preceding, that entry would be granted them shortly. Mr. Philip Garripie had already disposed of two land claims, one for the consideration of \$2,000, and had afterwards settled on surveyed lands without applying for entry. It has been stated that the location of the land office at Prince Albert was inconvenient to these people. It has also been stated that objection to making entry was, to some considerable extent, caused by certain parties who thought that ultimately the Government would be by such a course be compelled to establish a land agency at Batoche and employ themselves constituted agent. The half-breeds in Prince Albert district freight more or less. The headquarters for freighting is at Prince Albert, where they deliver their freight and are paid, and there is usually a half-breed adult in the district who does not at least once, and many of them several times, in every year, visit Prince Albert. These people are frequently buying and selling their claims prior to survey or entry or previous to obtaining a recommendation for patent, and no amount of explanation seems to make them understand that such transfers are illegal.

#### FUEL QUESTION.

The total amount collected as timber dues, from all the settlers embraced in the three lists since the establishment of the Crown timber office, amounts to \$25, which divided by 258, the number of claimants amounts to 31 cents each for two years, or at the rate of 15½ cents each for each settler. Of that amount \$25 was paid by four settlers for timber dues, for erection of stores and shops, amounting \$25 which has been paid by the remaining 254 settlers as office fees on hay permits, known as free permits—10 cents for each settler for two years, or at the rate of 5 cents per settler annuum.

#### HAY PERMITS.

As you are aware, the object of hay permits was to protect the small settler against the large stockman or speculator, and it has always been optional with settlers whether they took out permits or not. If they chose, they could continue the practice of the past by cutting hay anywhere. This has been explained to these people. They have never been asked to take out any permits or pay any dues, the hay being plenty and no large stockmen or speculators to interfere with them. The hay for the town of Prince Albert, or any large stockmen in that district, has been obtained elsewhere than in the neighborhood of these settlers.

1. This report shows that of all the 258 settlers at the time of the outbreak, not one was unable to obtain patent for his land through the action—or rather non-action—of the Government, and even in March, 1884, there were only ten cases of delay, which delay was caused by the conflicting surveys of One Arrow's reserve and the St. Laurent parish.

2. That not one man of the 258, or any one else who ever resided in the district, ever lost one inch of land through the system of survey, when such survey was made subsequent to his settlement thereon.

3. That 92 per cent of the 258 had no rights as Northwest half-breeds. Of that 92 per cent, those who were half-breeds had participated in all the rights accorded those people in the province of Manitoba.

4. That not one settler in the district had an acre of land sold over his head to which he had any claim, or had even preferred one.

5. That the timber dues were not onerous, amounting only to 5 cents per settler per annum.

6. That the hay permit question never affected them in the remotest degree.

All of which is respectfully submitted

have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

WM. PEARCE,  
Superintendent.