

patent, that the people became doubtful of the good faith of the Government, and were easily induced by speculators to sell their rights to the land. They were canvassed by those speculators, who informed them that it would take many years to get possession of their 240 acres; that the Government did not desire that they should get possession of them; and other arguments of that kind were used. I suppose hon. gentlemen opposite know something about that, for I believe that some of them and some of their friends own several thousand acres of these reserves. I presume that at one time 240 acres of half-breed claims were actually purchased for 5, 6, 7 and 8 pounds, and those prices prevailed during the Administration of hon. gentlemen opposite. The result was that the half-breeds lost confidence in Canadian laws and Canadian promises, and were easily induced to part with their reservations for a mere trifle. In fact, at the present day, I do not suppose that one-twentieth of these reserves remain in the hands of the original owners, and that is the reason why we see so many of these reserves in certain parishes lying waste. The result was, that in 1880, 1881 and 1883, a large number of these half-breeds left the Province, some going towards the Turtle Mountain district, in Dakota, and were thus lost to us entirely, others going westward to increase materially the half-breed settlements at Duck Lake, Qu'Appelle, Battleford and St. Albert. It is stated that, of a strong colony which formerly existed at Wood Mountain, only a few remain, the others having gone to the United States. Only a few thousand half-breeds now remain in Manitoba, although their population at the time of the transfer, in 1870, was 12,000 or 13,000. With regard to the conduct of the several officers, I have referred to the conduct of Snow, Dennis, Col. Wolseley and other officers appointed to deal with the population. These officers very often assume airs of importance amongst those people and as they were looked upon as representing the Canadian Government, they did a great deal of harm to Canada and to Canadian institutions. To the dishonest conduct of some of these officers is due the fact that there are some of these long outstanding claims not yet settled. These claims have been in existence for fifteen years, and have been pressed on the attention of the Government during that time, and I am convinced that if it had not been for the dishonesty of these officers, which the Government could not know of, except after a long time, on account of the difficulty of surveillance and communication, these officers would have been checked sooner and those grievances would have been ameliorated. During the administration of hon. gentlemen opposite these grievances existed, and to a large extent. In fact, if you compare the number of patents issued—and, of course, the number issued was on account of their being no dispute about them—if you compare the number issued by the late Administration and the present Administration, you will see that the present Government have done more justice to those parties than their predecessors. As to surveys, I have obtained the following figures as to the extent of the work done in the North-West by both the Conservative and Reform Governments respectively:

Total area of the North-West Territories .....	9,999,000 acres.
Lands surveyed from 1874 to 1878.....	1,797,120 do
do do 1879 to 1884.....	55,618,500 do
Blocks and Townships, outline surveys from 1874 to 1878, inclusive.....	2,200 miles.
Block and Townships, outline surveys from 1879 to 1884, inclusive.....	36,900 do
First-class traverse, from 1874 to 1878 inclusive do do 1879 to 1884 do ...	200 do
Odometer and other traverse, from 1874 to 1878 inclusive.....	2,300 do
Odometer and other traverse, from 1879 to 1884 inclusive.....	1,600 do
Odometer and other traverse, from 1879 to 1884 inclusive.....	6,900 do

Such has been the work done in the North-West by the two governments; the figures show on whose side was the actual and earnest desire to work for developing our newly

acquired Dominion. I now come to a more sensitive part of my remarks, and I state that the action, the language, the example, and even the direct support of the large portion of the Grit party, appear to have been the most immediate and most direct cause of the late troubles on the shores of the Saskatchewan. No one will attempt to deny that, with any show of reason. And yet let us not lose sight of this remarkable fact, that half-breeds have not the sympathies of the Opposition party. The late Minister of Interior, Mr. Mills, said that no privileges were to accrue to half-breeds—that they had to be either whites or Indians. From 1873 to 1878 very little was done on the part of the Government to satisfy the half-breeds. In fact, nothing was done; as stated by the right hon. leader of the Government, there was a blank in that day. I must say that, except for the reward that was offered by the party opposite for the capture of Riel, the appointment of a judge to try him and the refusal to give representation to the half-breeds in the appointments which were made, and the refusal to recognise those rights outside of Manitoba, very little, indeed, was done by hon. gentlemen opposite, and they come with very bad grace now to defend the rights and privileges of the half-breed population, which they say has been so shamefully neglected by the present Government.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Question, question.

Mr. ROYAL. During the long and tedious debates on the Franchise Bill, I never interrupted any of the hon. gentlemen opposite, but listened very patiently to their discourses. Now, what was the first act of the present Government towards settling the burning questions of the North-West Territories? They took upon themselves the right to deal with those questions, and to settle them in a manner that would meet the largest demands of those people. During the period from 1873 to 1878 not one act was done by hon. gentlemen opposite. On the contrary, they bungled the whole subject, and it was the worst legacy they left to the present Government, after they left office, in 1878. But that change of Government, in 1878, seemed to have drawn from hon. gentlemen opposite all their interest in the matter. The protection seemed to cause them to rush to arms and not discriminate between the means they might take to overthrow the present Government. War was commenced—a war of words. That war of words may be all right amongst us, because it is confined to newspapers and to some very high and loud talk on the floor of this House; but upon the minds of those people in the North-West it had a very different effect. They took those words as meaning exactly what they intended; they could not understand that two parties fighting upon a certain question did not exactly mean what their speakers said. Now, Sir, I come to the Province of Manitoba. In 1882 the agitation that had been going on in the eastern Provinces culminated there in the organisation of what was afterwards called the Farmers' Union, which, under the color of remedying the condition of affairs that seemed injurious to the farmers at that time, was nothing else but a firm and well-concealed design to strengthen the cause of the Opposition to the Conservative party.

Mr. WATSON. No, no.

Mr. ROYAL. I hear "No" from an hon. gentleman opposite. There was a co-existence of different causes which led farmers to seek to remedy a certain condition of things which they thought to be injurious to themselves, and in the ranks of the Farmers' Union, as first organised, we find some well-meaning Conservatives, but I must say they were in a minority. Granting that the country was in the midst of a crisis such as they professed, the leaders, instead of confining themselves to the immediate purpose of this organisation, as at first established, extended their