

20. That notwithstanding the settlement of a very large number of claims amongst the half-breeds, and the very satisfactory manner in which the commissioners appointed for that purpose performed their work, so far as the time occupied by them would permit, there yet remains a very large number of half-breeds who are entitled to a recognition of their claims, we cannot impress too strongly upon the Dominion Government the desirability of settling all half-breed claims without delay, and would strongly urge the immediate appointment of a commission to continue the work until thoroughly completed.

21. That claims for compensation from the Government for loss sustained during the late rebellion should, in the opinion of this council, be promptly settled by the Government, it being within our knowledge that great inconvenience and hardship is now being undergone by some, who have lost heavily in consequence of the outbreak.

This council would recommend in this connection that most searching and rigorous enquiry be had as to the nature of claims, so that any who were a party to their own loss may not receive the same consideration as those who were loyal to the Government.

Also that goods and supplies furnished to troops in good faith by settlers and merchants should be paid for.

22. That where stock is kept by a homesteader some rule should be adopted and made a part of the land regulations, so that the stock of homesteaders over a fixed number might be allowed to count as cultivation duties, in whole or in part, ; and that encouragement should be given to tree-planting in prairie sections of the country, and to count also as cultivation duties.

23. That the council respectfully intimates that, in their opinion, it would be most satisfactory to the people of these Territories were the Government in future to fill appointments to positions of trust and emolument from amongst the residents of these Territories.

24. That owing to the unexpectedly rapid development of the agricultural resources of the territories, and to the erection of gristing mills at several points, as well as the extent of the cattle interests of the North-West, this council recommends both in the interests of the Government and the settler, that in the future all food supplies, both for the North-West Mounted Police and for the Indians, should be purchased in the Territories.

We were aware that the issue of beef to Indians instead of the American pork would be more satisfactory to all the tribes. We would suggest that contracts be called for in smaller quantities, the security deposit not to exceed 5 per cent., and without official routine which has attended the letting of contracts heretofore.

In this manner, we believe the settler will be helped, and the Government will receive a cheaper and a better article.

25. That the position of several town sites in the Territories, in which the Crown is interested, proves from year to year more unsatisfactory owing to the impossibility of collecting taxes from unsold lots therein, which are increased in value owing to the expenditure of taxes paid by the residents of such towns, the Crown thereby being benefitted without sharing any of the burdens of taxation.

And as great difficulties are met with in establishing and sustaining schools and municipal organizations in such town sites, in the opinion of the Council, it is advisable that the Government should at once dispose of their interests in such town sites so that the same may be made available for taxation.

26. Whereas representations have been made to this Council by the elected members of Prince Albert, St. Albert and Edmonton, that certain colonization companies in and near their electoral districts, viz.: The Prince Albert Colonization Company, and the Edmonton and Saskatchewan Land and Colonization Company have not complied with their agreements, the effect of which is that large blocks of land are locked up from settlement, and the progress of these districts materially retarded.