

precipitated the unfortunate outbreak. It is important to remember that the surveys of that district practically all took place under the Government which is to-day in power. And, gentlemen, the instructions to surveyors from the first were that whenever they found any number of settlers in a particular locality along the banks of the Saskatchewan or the other rivers of the Northwest, if these half-breed settlers so desired, the instructions to the surveyor were, in every case, to survey the land on the river lot principle instead of on the rectangular principle. In this the half-breeds could have whatever they wished. For instance, gentlemen, in Battle river, southeast of Bear hills, at Edmonton, at St. Albert, Fort Saskatchewan, Victoria, Prince Albert and St. Laurent, the river lot principle of survey was adopted because of the fact that there were half-breed settlers there when the surveyors went, and they carried out their instructions from the Government to meet the wishes of the people. (Hear, hear.) Now if we had taken the ground which Mr. Mills took, we were not bound to do that. What were the facts regarding those surveys? As far back as 1871 the system of rectangular surveys was determined upon by the Government, and embodied in an act of Parliament to be applied to the whole of the Northwest territories. We might, had we chosen, have sent our surveyors there not to survey on the river lot principle, but by the rectangular system according to the law followed by both administrations, and which was applicable to all white settlers who chose to go into the country. But we did not do that. If we had adopted the principle of Mr. Mills, if we had said the rectangular survey is the system according to law, if you choose to settle in the country you must conform to it, if we had done this the half-breeds would have been deprived of the benefit of their own system of surveys, and there might have been a grievance. In 1871, previous to the adoption of the rectangular system of surveys, there were only twenty half-breeds at St. Albert, fourteen or fifteen at Victoria, about six at Edmonton, and, except two or three at Q'Appelle, these were all the half-breed settlers in all those territories outside of Manitoba. Except those few people, we might have dealt with all the other half-breeds on the principle laid down by Mr. Mills, that, although they had claims for consideration on the Government, they would have to be treated as the white settlers.

Gentlemen, a complaint which is often made, and which is said to have caused a great deal of heartburning and trouble amongst the half-breeds of the Northwest, is

THAT ENGLISH SURVEYORS WERE SENT

there to survey the land; that these English surveyors of the lands of the Saskatchewan and other parts of the country had ignored improvements made and houses built by settlers, and that they had run lines through their property irrespective of those improvements; not speaking their language and treating the half-breeds in a spirit of *hauteur* and indifference which caused irritation amongst them. The fact is, gentlemen, that eighty per cent. of all the lands surveyed in the district in which the outbreak took place were surveyed by French Canadians (laughter) and the remaining twenty per cent. were surveyed by English surveyors speaking the French language or accompanied by assistants who spoke French. This, gentlemen, is the fact regarding this matter. (Hear, hear.) Then, gentlemen, there is another point on which we should expect half-breeds to do as others are required to do—that is that half-breeds should take precautions to enter their lands at the office of the agents. But the fact is that, although the half-breeds ought to have made entries within three months after surveys were made, twelve months afterwards in that district not 40 per cent. of the whole of the half-breeds had gone to the land office to make the entry of their lands. Let me give you a striking illustration of the

PRACTICAL INDIFFERENCE OF THOSE PEOPLE,

notwithstanding that we gave them every instruction as to how they should enter for their lands. I find that in the neighborhood of Duck Lake the land was surveyed and open for entry in August, 1881. At the beginning of 1883 none of the half-breeds having come to make their entries, the Government was so anxious to provide for them that they sent the assistant agent at Prince Albert into the Duck Lake district to give further information to the half-breeds and to point out the lands to which they were entitled, and to advise them to make their entries. Yet, at the time the rebellion broke out, not 25 per cent. of those people had taken the trouble to go to Prince Albert and make those entries. (Hear, hear.) Yet we are told that the Government should be held responsible for the outbreak in connection with this matter. (Cries of "No.") Again it is claimed that, notwithstanding all those precautions, delays