

firmation by the Surveyor-General. I am also to remind you that, until the survey has been completed and approved, the other steps in respect to the claims of settlers at Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan and St. Albert cannot be proceeded with. It is the intention of the Minister, however, that no unnecessary time should be lost, and the required action has so far been taken with as much promptitude as possible.

"I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN R. HALL,  
"Acting Secretary.

"The Rev. H. Ladue, O. M. I., St. Albert, Saskatchewan."

So, you see, so far from any indifference being manifested in the matter, the surveyor's notes were already in Ottawa when the complaint arrived there, so promptly had the work been done, and the only thing remaining to be done was to submit them to the Surveyor-General for his approval to put the survey into effect. It was important that a man well acquainted with the district and the people should be appointed as registrar, and the man selected to fill that office was Mr. Beauden, a French gentleman possessing these requirements, and Mr. Govecan was appointed land agent, and so these things asked for were granted promptly. So well satisfied were the people, that when the rebellion broke out, the young men of St. Albert, instead of feeling their wrongs, as Mr. Laurier says, these young half-breeds of St. Albert enlisted under Captain George, of Montreal, and took up arms, not as rebels against the Crown, but against their brothers and against Louis Riel, as loyal subjects (immense cheering). So the poor people, about whose wrongs Mr. Laurier is trying to excite your sympathies—these very people were more loyal than Laurier, and fought on the side of the Crown, putting aside their ties of kindred and acting according to the light they had of the Government's intentions. Their course was a lesson which I would to God he and his followers would take to heart (cheers). For they, with their greater opportunities of learning the facts about the rebellion, have less to justify them than had any one of the poor half-breeds, who, as has been admitted by themselves, took up arms without cause. The claim for scrip was the only one not settled in full when Louis Riel went into the country, and it was not a question affecting the half-breeds who rebelled, as over 92 per cent. had already received it. Now, if I wanted to prove to you that the Government settled all these matters satisfactorily, and that the people were fully informed of it, I can do so from their own authorities. I can give you the testimony taken in the trial at Regina. I will give you the evidence of Father Andre on the matter:

"Q.—Will you state, if, since the arrival of the prisoner in the country, up to the time of the rebellion, the Government have made any favorable answer to the demands and claims of the half-breeds? A.—Yes, I know they have acceded to certain demands in regard to those who did not have scrip in Manitoba. A telegram was sent on the 4th of March last, granting the scrip.

"Q.—Before that time? A.—Yes, regarding the alteration of survey of lots along the river, there was an answer from the Government saying they would grant it, and that was an important question.

"Q.—What question, then, remained to be settled? A.—The question of patents—that has also been settled in a certain way, because Mr. Duck was sent, and I went with him as interpreter.

"Q.—What other question remained? A.—Only the question of wood timber."

So, you will see that, according to the sworn testimony of Father Andre, when the rebellion broke out there was just the wood timber question remaining, which the Government declined then, as it does now, to settle in any way. When I was in the North-west, I was met by a deputation of the people of Prince Albert last year. Their one complaint was in nineteen petitions, which were not grievances by any means. So plainly did I explain the matter to them that Mr. Millar, who had always been regarded as one of the greatest opponents of the Government's policy, and one of the strongest Liberals there, got up at a dinner, which was tendered to me by the people of Prince Albert in the evening, and said he was fully satisfied with the justice of the Government (loud cheers). So, I say, Mr. Laurier has not much of a leg to rest upon when he stands up and endeavors to incite the people to support the cause of rebellion (renewed cheers). This man Riel, who has been held up as a martyred patriot, who by the gradual diffusion of education among the Liberals—no, I should say among the Clear Grits, for that is their name (laughter)—this man, who has been elevated as a hero and martyr in this country—this Riel, I ask, what kind of a man was he? Let me show you from the testimony of Father Andre what kind of a hero he was:

"Q.—I believe, in the month of December 1874, you had an interview with Riel and Nolin with regard to a certain sum of money which the prisoner claimed from the Federal Government? A.—Not with Nolin; Nolin was not present at the interview.

"Q.—The prisoner was there? A.—Yes.

"Q.—Will you please state what the prisoner asked of the Federal Government? A.—I had two interviews with the prisoner on that subject.

"Q.—The prisoner claimed a certain indemnity from the Federal Government, didn't he? A.—When the prisoner made his claim, I was there with another gentleman, and he asked from the Government \$1,000. We thought that was exorbitant, and the prisoner said, "Wait a little, I will take at once \$35,000 cash."

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