

sion of the country, the transfer from the Hudson Bay Company to the Government had not even been signed. So the Canadian Government had at that time no title to the country. But it is very different in this case. Not only have we our title but we have been in possession for nearly 15 years, and therefore the two situations cannot be compared. Although it is not necessary to enter at any length into the events which caused the rebellion or the troubles of 1870, I would say that the Hon. Mr. Macdougall who was appointed Lieutenant Governor in 1869 proceeded to exercise the functions of his office, but was forcibly refused admission to the country. The population, and more especially the French half-breeds of Manitoba, were resisting the new state of things. A Provisional Government was formed, with Louis Riel as President, and only surrendered on condition of an amnesty, the recognition of certain land claims and the granting of responsible government. The portion of the Territory adjoining the Province of Ontario was constituted a Province by the name of Manitoba. Representation was given to the Province in the Senate and the House of Commons. A Legislature was created, consisting of a Legislative Assembly, and of a Legislative Council which has since been abolished. Clause 30 of the Act provides:

"All ungranted or waste lands in the Province shall be, from and after the date of the said transfer, vested in the Crown, and administered by the Government of Canada for the purposes of the Government of the Dominion, subject to, and except and so far as the same may be affected by, the conditions and stipulations contained in the agreement for the surrender of Rupert's Land by the Hudson Bay Company to Her Majesty."

Then as to Indian titles, it was provided:

"And whereas, it is expedient towards the extinguishment of the Indian title to the lands in the Province, to appropriate a portion of such ungranted land, to the extent of 1,400,000 acres thereof, for the benefit of the families of the half-breed residents;

"It is hereby enacted, that, under regulations to be from time to time made, by the Governor General in Council, the Lieutenant Governor shall select such lots or tracts in such parts of the Province as he may deem expedient, to the extent aforesaid, and divide the same among the children of the half-breed heads of families residing in the Province at the time of the said transfer to Canada, and the same shall be granted to the said children respectively, in such mode and on such conditions as to settlement and otherwise as the Governor General in Council may from time to time determine."

Then there are clauses providing for the quieting of title, and section 35 is as follows:—

"And with respect to such portion of Rupert's Land and the North-West Territory as is not included in the Province of Manitoba, it is hereby enacted that the Lieutenant Governor of the said Province shall be appointed by commission, under the great seal of Canada, to be Lieutenant Governor of the same\* under the name of the North-West Territories, and subject to the provisions of the Act in the next section mentioned."

That is the Act of 1869. The Manitoba Act also provided that both French and English should be the official languages before the Legislature, and in the courts of justice. The principle of separate schools was freely recognised. The privilege of a mixed jury was granted as in the Province of Quebec. Provision was made for the extinction of the Indian title, and free grants of land were made to the half-breeds and their children, which in 1873 by the Land Act were extended to the old white settlers and their children. All these concessions were granted by the Manitoba Act of 1870, Vic. 33, cap. 3. Whatever may be the diversity of opinion as to the causes, pretexts or circumstances of these troubles of 1869-70, there cannot be any doubt that without the French half-breeds, Manitoba would not have been granted the liberties and privileges of popular government, and this important reform bears testimony to the intelligence and patriotism of the French half-breeds. This has been admitted by many eye witnesses of the events of these days, and quite recently by Mr. Alexander McArthur, of Winnipeg, an old official of the Hudson Bay Company, a prisoner of Riel, when lecturing before the Historical and Scientific Society of Winnipeg, on the 4th October, 1882, and in fact the language he used shows his impartiality in the matter. He says:

"While the leaders of the half-breeds brought ignominy on themselves by imbuing their hands in blood, it cannot be denied that they obtained rights and privileges for themselves and their fellow countrymen, which but for the stand they took would never have been granted, and the boons so secured they have the satisfaction of knowing were equally participated in by those nations and residents of the country, who not only took part in the rising, but were many of them opposed to it and disposed to aid the other side."

The Manitoba Act also provided for a temporary government in that portion of Rupert's Land, and North-Western Territory not included in the Province of Manitoba. It enacted that until the end of the Session of 1871, it was to be left to the management of the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba with the aid of the council provided for by the Act of 1869. Considering the state of the country, its small population, this provisional Government was perhaps the only practicable one. Its services were fully acknowledged by the Minister of the Interior (Hon. Mr. Mills) in his report of 1876. He said:

"It is due to that council to record the fact that their legislation and valuable practical suggestions submitted to Your Excellency from time to time through their official head, Lieutenant Governor Morris, aided the Government not a little in the good work of laying the foundations of law and order in the North-West, in securing the good will of the Indian tribes, and in establishing the prestige of the Dominion Government throughout the vast territory."

During the Sessions of 1871 and 1873 the appointment of a special Lieutenant Governor and Council for the North-West was provided for, but notwithstanding this provision and others which were adopted in 1873, the affairs of the Territories continued to be administered from Winnipeg. By an Order in Council of the 12th February, 1873, the Council was authorised to make provision for the administration of justice in the Territories and generally to make and establish such ordinances (not to exceed the jurisdiction of any Provincial Legislature) as may be necessary for the peace, order and good government of the said North-West Territories subject to the approbation of the Governor in Council. The council was to meet at least every six months in Winnipeg, and except in special cases public notice by advertisement of such meeting was to be required for at least 40 days. An annual meeting was held on the first Monday in June in each year. I will now give the names of the members of the first Legislative Council. Hon. Alexander Morris was appointed Lieutenant Governor of the North-West Territories on the 2nd day of December, 1872, and on the 28th day of the same month the following gentlemen were appointed members of the Council: Hon. Chas. A. Girard, Hon. Donald A. Smith, Hon. Henry J. Clarke, Hon. Paschal Breland, Hon. Alfred Boyd, John Schultz, Joseph Dubuc, Andrew G. B. Bannatyne, Wm. Fraser, Robert Hamilton, Wm. J. Christie. On the 30th October, 1873, Messrs. James MacKay, a half-breed, and William N. Kennedy were appointed. On the 1st January, 1874, Mr. Christie resigned and John H. McLaird married to a half-breed, was nominated in his place and Messrs. William Tait, married to half-breed, and Robert Cunningham, were also added to the list of the councillors by hon. gentlemen opposite. One of the last ordinances of the North-West Council was the passing of "An Act for the prevention of Prairie and Forest Fires in the North-West Territories," which in due time was transmitted to Ottawa for approbation with representation that it was of "urgent importance"; but up to 1876, when the papers connected with this measure were brought before the House, it had not been yet approved. The Conservative party in power soon after left office (1873). It was not, however, till two years after (1875) that the Administration of hon. gentlemen opposite thought of providing for the removal of the seat of Government of the North-West, and it took another year to put this Act into operation; so three years were required to accomplish this important reform, recommended as most necessary and urgent by the great organ of the Liberal party. The *Toronto Globe*, of the 25th February, 1876, said: