

usual hunt for buffalo, returning to their homes at different times during each year. Others have settled since 1879, and have remained pretty constantly on their lands.

"The Dominion land surveys have demonstrated that many of them have been living on the same section, and as land became valuable a scramble was made by land speculators to obtain the right, titles and interest of those settled in the most favored locality.

"The sooner the claims of these half-breeds are determined the better, as a number of them are *bonâ fide* settlers and deserve consideration.

"These settlers have not claimed their land, as was done in some parts of the North-West, by small frontages running back some miles, although the bulk of them built their homesteads close to each other and near the water, where they could easily catch fish. They, however, consider they are entitled to as much land in area as they would have been had they taken up their claims, as had been the custom with half-breeds."

And then he states the difficulty, suggesting a plan of settlement, and suggests that if the question is left to arbitration it should be left to some independent man. Now I have told you of Mr. Dewdney's telegram of August and his letter of August, 1882, in which he requested this pressing case to be considered. Do you know when that letter was answered? It was answered on the 6th of July, 1883, ten months after the date of its receipt, and its answer was:

"I am directed by the Minister of the Interior to send you herewith the enclosed copies of the correspondence concerning the claims of certain half-breed settlers in the Qu'Appelle valley, and to request that you will, at your convenience, investigate and report upon these claims."

And the reference to Mr. Commissioner Walsh took place on that 6th of July, 1882—the letter is here. So that this pressing case, referred to by the Lieutenant Governor of the Territories, by telegram and letter, remained for ten months, although he had suggested a reference to Commissioner Walsh, without the Department possessing sufficient animation either to order the reference or to answer the letter; and it was not until the expiration of that period that the step was taken, even, of ordering the reference. Then Mr. Jackson, the member of the council for the district, on 8th December, 1883, says:

"You will pardon the liberty I now take in addressing you privately, when I tell you that it is at the urgent request of a large deputation of half-breeds that I do so. They, in common with the country, have heard of the generally satisfactory settlement of the mile belt and reserve question,—"

You know, the satisfactory settlement was, that the wrong was undone, as far as it could be, after a while—

"and urge perhaps with reason, that if their own grievances, upon which the Government have been repeatedly petitioned and memorialised, were brought personally to your notice, some immediate action would be taken. Under any circumstances, there would not be very many to deal with, and the settlement of their claims need not be a troublesome one; but there are half-breeds in the Territories who have never received anything from the Government, and who, it has been admitted, are entitled to some consideration."

On 13th March, 1884, after a more reasonable interval of delay—only three months this time—Mr. Hall, the secretary, informed Mr. Jackson that the letter was duly received, and he says:

"The Minister has himself been very anxious to have this question settled, and on the 18th September last Mr. A. Walsh, commissioner of Dominion lands at Winnipeg, was instructed to visit this locality, and make an investigation into the claims of these half-breeds, and other matters. Owing, however, to an unusual pressure of business, Mr. Walsh has so far been unable to visit this locality, but he has again been written to and requested to make this investigation at the earliest possible opportunity."

Now, Sir, so far as I can ascertain, these claims were only settled under the pressure of the rebellion in April, 1885, because the very principle of the decision is that which was discussed by telegram and letter between Mr. Street and Mr. Macpherson, after Mr. Street has reached Winnipeg. The questions how much should be given to them on the water, and on what terms they should have the lands outside, were only settled in April, 1885. There is a combined instance of neglect to settle old claims, and trouble arising out of the reserves. And may I be permitted to enquire if these delays took place when the Minister was so very anxious, what would have been the case if he had not possessed such a

Mr. BLAKE.

tender interest? Then, I turn to the case of the Prince Albert Colonisation Company. That company's tract of land is in the immediate vicinity of these troubles. And the facts, so far as I have been able to gather them, are briefly these: In 1882 Mr. J. White, M.P., East Hastings, and Mr. J. C. Jamieson, of the Belleville *Intelligencer*, procured the passage of an Order in Council in favor of the projected company, and an agreement for some very choice lands. That agreement was made in June, 1882, and it was intended and provided by the charter of the company that they should also deal in lumber limits and coal lands. It was arranged, on the formation of the company, that the profits should be divided into twelve shares, or parts, of which two were to be what are called, in the parlance of these jobbers, "blind." The shareholders, other than White and Jamieson, were to advance the needed money, and White and Jamieson were to receive each one-twelfth of the net profits, without making any advance or incurring any risk. This agreement, by which they were to receive one-twelfth part of the profits, was in consideration of the fact that they had procured the Order in Council and forwarded the company's interests; and in virtue of the agreement, that they were to continue to assist and promote the interests of the company. It was a versatile company, not confining itself to its specific line, but intending to dabble in timber limits and coal lands as well. The hon. the Minister of Customs knew all about this arrangement. The company found that another river township would be valuable, and these gentlemen, in 1883, applied for an exchange, and obtained an Order in Council in the fall of 1883, whereby they got township 45, range 27, west of 2nd meridian in exchange for township 43 in the same range. That was a township on the Saskatchewan of extraordinary value. Mr. Jamieson was secretary of the company at \$600 a year; the other shareholders advanced all the money necessary to pay to the Government its 20,000 odd dollars. The land grant was not surveyed at the date of the original application, and with the exception of township 45, which I have just mentioned, a survey of which was approved in December, 1882, no surveys were approved before the fall of 1883. The First Minister gave the dates of the approvals as follow:

Tp. 45a, R. 26, w. 2nd Mer., surveyed	season '83;	approved	18th Sept., '83
" 46a " 26 "	" "	" "	May, '83 " 19th April, '84
" 45a " 27 "	" "	" "	season '83 " 18th Sept., '83
" 45 " 27 "	" "	" "	" '82 " 22nd Dec., '82
" 41 " 28 "	" "	" "	Feb. '83 " 18th July, '83
" 45a " 28 "	" "	" "	March, '83 " 15th Nov., '83
" 43 " 28 "	" "	" "	season '83; not approved.

The inspector of colonisation companies reported twenty-nine settlers on the tract, and I believe he reported also a church site on it. The company never did anything that I have been able to find out; the bulk of the twenty-nine settlers went in on township 45, range 27, west 2nd meridian, which is the river township to which I have referred. Its name is the parish of St. Louis de Langevin. Who is its patron saint? I hope the hon. Minister of Public Works will consider of its case. A church and a mission were established here, and the names of most of the settlers on the tract will be found on some of the petitions which I will have presently to read to the House, and on some still more melancholy lists afterwards. The company found the settlers there, and the settlers who hold these river lots held the key of the position. The company asked the Government, during the Session of 1884, to give them possession or to exchange for other vacant land, or to refund the money; but the Minister refused, saying the matter was in the company's hands, as they had the right and title to the land and could eject. In 1884, about the end of February, the company applied again for relief; they wanted their money back; the Minister refused, telling them they had the right and title to eject. They declined to eject, saying it would raise a rebellion, and the matter became more unsettled than ever. The agreement with