

# THE VETERANS OF THE FUR TRADE

OR

## The Retired Servants of The Hudson's Bay Company.

To all whom it may concern :

At a meeting of the Veterans of the Fur Trade Association held in the office of A. S. Stewart, Esq., in the City of Prince Albert on the 12th September, 1905, the following resolution was passed, viz.:

"That a pamphlet setting forth our claims be prepared as soon as possible by the Chairman."

In accordance with the above resolution, I shall now attempt to give a statement of (a) the grant of land from the Hudson's Bay Company to Lord Selkirk; (b) the grant of land that was set apart by the Hudson's Bay Company and Thomas, Earl of Selkirk, for the retired servants of the Hudson's Bay Company on the 12th June, 1811, and (c) the Public Books of Assiniboia that were lost on the 24th August, 1870, the day that Sir Garnet Wolseley took possession of Upper Fort Garry.

In order that we may rightly understand the question we are about to deal with, we must raise the curtain that hides the past history of this country and take a glance over the 59 years that preceded the transfer of Rupert's Land, the North-West Territories, and the District of Assiniboia, to Canada. We shall, therefore, commence at the year 1811.

DEED OF 74,555,520 ACRES TO  
LORD SELKIRK.

On the 12th June, 1811, the Hudson's Bay Company, under the au-

thority of the Royal Charter granted to them on the 2nd May, 1669 by King Charles the Second executed a deed in London, England, by which they transferred to Thomas, Earl of Selkirk, a tract of land in this country, containing 116,493 superficial miles, or 74,555,520 acres, exclusive of water. A portion of this land thus deeded now forms the Province of Manitoba, and another portion is included in the new Province of Saskatchewan. The Western boundary line as defined upon the map accompanying the deed, runs through old Fort Carlton, in Saskatchewan.

One of the objects in view for conveying these lands to the Earl of Selkirk, was for the purpose of establishing a British colony in the country known thereafter as the District of Assiniboia.

In this deed of 1811 it was, and is, expressly provided that one-tenth of the said 74,555,520 acres be set apart for free grants, to be from time to time given to the retired servants of the Hudson's Bay Company, settling in the country, the quantity of land to be given to such servant being according to his rank or grade in the service. In other words, the deed provided that nine-tenths of the land would belong to Lord Selkirk and his heirs forever, and one-tenth of the land would belong to the retired servants of the Hudson's Bay Company, "and for no other use, intent or purpose whatsoever."