

him the experience of 1870, and following years, in Manitoba, had made representations that he wished these new free grants to extinguish the Indian title in the North-West to be entailed for three generations. There were, besides, representations of the Anglican Bishop, who also wished them to be entailed, but only for ten years. Then there were the representations of the Premier of Manitoba, who had also a great deal of experience in these matters, and who also desired these lands to be entailed, but for a shorter period. On the other hand, the North-West council recommended that free grants should be given to the half-breeds, just as they were given to the half-breeds of Manitoba in 1870. Those grants were made without any condition—160 acres to the heads of families and 240 acres to the children. What was the consequence? The scrip were sold immediately, almost before they reached the hands of the half-breeds; and no doubt Archbishop Taché, Mr. Norquay and the bishop of the Church of England had very good reasons for recommending the Government to change their policy towards the half-breeds. But matters were pressing. The half-breeds, no doubt, pushed by speculators, were asking, not that their lands should be entailed, but they were asking for a title which could be disposed of immediately. At the meeting which took place in September, 1884, at Prince Albert, the half-breeds expressed their wish for such a title to those lands as they might dispose of as they chose. There was a little delay, no doubt. From 1879 to to-day those claims have not all been settled; their settlement only commenced within the last few months; but you will admit, and the public will admit, that the Government have labored under serious difficulties, having, on the one hand, to contend with the representations—in my opinion, the very reasonable representations—of Archbishop Taché and the other gentlemen of experience in the North-West, and, on the other hand, with the demands of the half-breeds, supported by the North-West council. In the issuing of patents for lands there was another difficulty—the difficulty of finding lands which were surveyed. When hon. gentlemen opposite left office, in 1878, they had hardly done anything in this respect in the North-West. I will give you a complete table of the surveys, as they were made, from the beginning until to-day both in Manitoba and the North-West:

	Acres.	No. of Farms of 160 acres each.
Previous to June, 1873.....	4,792,292	29,952
In 1874.....	4,237,864	26,487
1875.....	665,000	4,156
1876.....	420,507	2,628
1877.....	231,691	1,448
1878, N.W.....	306,936	1,918
1879.....	1,130,482	7,066
1880.....	4,472,000	27,950
1881.....	9,147,000	50,919
1882.....	9,460,000	55,125
1883.....	27,000,000	168,750
1884.....	6,400,000	40,000
Totals.....	67,255,770	420,399

The agricultural population these lands would sustain, on the basis of three souls to a homestead, would be 1,261,197. The land surveyed up to 1873 were 9,999,000; from 1874 to 1875, 1,797,120; from 1884, 55,618,500. The survey, in the vicinity of Prince Albert and also in the vicinity of St. Laurent were made in 1878. Surveys were made subsequently in the old settlements on the North Saskatchewan, Edmonton and St. Albert. The lands between Carlton and Fort Pitt, and between Edmonton and Calgary, were surveyed in 1884. During the season of 1883, 120 land surveyors were employed, 35 among them French Canadians. In 1884, 61 surveyors were employed, of whom 22 were French Canadians. The surveys in 1883, alone, cost \$750,000. With the surveys, land offices were opened. The first was opened at Prince Albert in 1878, Mr. Duck, agent, appointed by Mr. GIBOUARD.

the late administration, the very same officer who was nominated long before the office was opened and ready. The second office was in Regina (Troy, for a short time). In 1884, four land offices were opened at Calgary, Edmonton, Touchwood and Coteau, and finally this spring at Swift Current. The first registry office was opened in 1876 at Battleford and three more later, Prince Albert, Regina and Calgary. In 1883, during the debate which took place in this House on a motion of Mr. Blake, in moving for copies of all correspondence and memorials relating to the claims of the inhabitants of Prince Albert and the neighboring districts in the North-West, with respect to the lands which they occupy, and other matters affecting their condition, I find the following statement made by Mr. Royal, the hon. member for Provencher:—

“I suppose you are aware that delegates have been sent here by a certain portion of the population of the North-West Territories, respecting the subject which is just now engaging the attention of this House, and is more especially under the notice of the Government. These delegates have laid their grievances—it grievances they are—before some of the hon. Ministers. Their object is to have the title to the lands occupied, owned and improved by some of these people for over 20 years recognised and confirmed by the Government. Their claims are nothing but just. These lands belong mostly to half-breed people and pioneers from Ontario, who went west from the Province of Manitoba some five, ten or fifteen years ago. These pioneers of Canadian civilisation have formed groups throughout the Territories, which will, no doubt, be the nucleus of a large population. There is a very important group at Duck Lake, Prince Albert, another at Edmonton, another at St. Albert, and so on. Last year surveyors were sent out to carry on the surveys of the Dominion in that part of the country. These surveyors had no instructions to stop wherever they would meet any of the old settlements, and their continuing the lines aroused, of course, the suspicion of the old settlers, who held a meeting, and represented to the Government the justice of respecting their property in farm improvements. Their claims have been fully recognised, and orders have been sent to the surveyors to respect those settlements. The object of this delegation is to have the Government cause the lines of the Dominion surveys to front on the limits of their settlements. The delegates have already had an interview with some members of the Government, and were assured, in every case, the rights of ownership of those old settlers would be fully recognised. These settlers are not to be classed with squatters. The squatter is, generally speaking, a man who goes off the survey and squats on the piece of land he thinks best suited for farming. In some cases, unfortunately, he is sent there by somebody else, or goes on his own impulse, to select the best spot, on which he will make a slight improvement, in order that he may be able to sell it to some company or individual. The settlers to whom I refer went as far as Prince Albert, some few miles west of Edmonton, and lived there on their farms for over thirty years. Of course, it was quite natural they should suspect something was wrong when they saw the surveyors continuing their lines of survey; but there is no more reason for fear on that ground. The delegates have also another object in view, namely, to have the Government recognise and confirm the titles of these settlers. No doubt, to a certain extent, they have been squatters, but their rights are clear, and of course they are anxious the Government should confirm them and issue Crown patents to them, in order that their property should be classed the same as any other in the Dominion. In that respect, also, I am happy to state their wants have been fully met with, and they have been assured the Government will fully recognise their titles, and issue, in due time, the letters patent. They have also demanded from the Government that a land agent should be appointed in their own district. The nearest land agent is about 300 or 400 miles distant from Prince Albert, and the hon. Minister has assured them that as soon as the plans of survey would be recognised and confirmed by the Government a Dominion land office would be opened there, and everything made ready for the interests of the new settlers. It is well known, I believe, in Manitoba and the rest of the Dominion, that that part of the North-West Territories which lies on the North Saskatchewan, and extends from Prince Albert to Edmonton, will certainly, before many years, contain a very large population. That district is composed of the most fertile lands in that part of the country, where running waters, forests and vast arable lands are to be found in large quantities. Already the pioneers have gone in advance of the surveys, and formed groups of population, which are now among the most important groups in the North-West. On behalf of these delegates I must recognise the fact that the Government have dealt with them in a most open and liberal manner.”

I know, as a fact, that a land office has been opened at Edmonton last year, and that Mr. Gauvreau was transferred from Prince Albert to Edmonton, in order to give more facilities to the French half-breeds of that district. At the same time, last year Louis Schmidt, French half-breed, was appointed assistant to the land office of Prince Albert for the same purpose. In 1883 I believe the Government, with a view of giving greater facilities to white settlers and claimants in the North-West, and also in Man-