

It was finally decided that a grant of land to each individual halfbreed would meet the case, and the grant was fixed at the generous allowance of two hundred and forty acres; which was considered a sufficiently large farm to support a man and his family in comfort.

To each halfbreed, then, who applied and who proved his right to participate in the issue, a certificate was given entitling him to 240 acres of land, which he was allowed to select from all the available homestead land in the possession of the Dominion government, and for which a deed would be issued to him on presenting his certificate, or scrip, at the office of Dominion Lands for the district in which his selected land was situated.

Few of the halfbreeds took advantage of the opportunity afforded them to become farmers. Farming was the last thing to which the average halfbreed would turn his thoughts. They were hunters and trappers, rovers by nature; and their scrip certificates were to them merely an asset, to be disposed of for what they would fetch. Land was cheap; hundreds of thousands of acres could be purchased by anyone who had a mind for that kind of foolishness for a dollar an acre and less. No halfbreed with any sense



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PAYING SCRIP.—THIS MAN IS SAID
TO BE PURE INDIAN

would take the trouble to locate and take a deed for unsaleable land which he couldn't farm, (and wouldn't if he could,) when he could get cash, or some equally desirable product, for his piece of paper with the writing on it, without any trouble or difficulty.

Thus the halfbreeds fell into the hands of the speculators. Scrip was sold for ten dollars, five dollars, for a blanket, a bottle of whiskey or a keg of beer; for any old thing, in fact, which the speculators had to offer and which the halfbreed, for the moment, wanted—or thought he wanted. Fortunes have been made, time without number, by the purchase of halfbreed scrip. There are today in Winnipeg, and elsewhere through the West, men who are in the millionaire and near-millionaire classes, who laid the foundations of their fortunes, and made the bulk of them, by their dealing in scrip.

And by no means would all of these transactions bear close



THE SCRIP PARTY FOLLOWS DEVIOUS AND LITTLE TROD
PATHS—THE SHORTEST CUT FROM POST TO POST