

province, but he seems to think that the "shreds and patches" when they have extended into the territories should not be allowed to express an opinion. I spoke very moderately and directly to the point. From the tone of the remarks of the hon. gentleman one would think I should not have spoken at all. The hon. gentleman has said the Liberal party have done everything for the people of the North-West. I deny it directly and distinctly, and I will prove that such is not the case. I will tell this House what the people of the North-West have realized. They have watched the life of this country during the last ten years, even before they had representation in this House;—and I was a member of the North-West Council long ago and took an active part in drawing the memorials to the Government at Ottawa. There were certain things we thought were required and these were embodied in our memorial, but we found that the Liberal party made use of these memorials to damn the North-West. They made use of them in such a way as only to make political capital for themselves, to be used in the older provinces; and, in consequence of that, we in the North-West Council came to the conclusion that it was better to have these memorials directed to the Governor in Council, where everything would be kept secret, where nothing would be given away to the press, because such base use was made of those memorials by the Liberal party. In what way did the Liberal party do anything with regard to half-breed scrip in the North-West Territories? During the last election this question was a very lively one in Saskatchewan; and I published in my address a statement that the leader of the Liberal party had declared himself against granting the scrip to half-breed children born up to 1885; and as that hon. gentleman had thus declared the policy of his party, the only party to which the half-breeds of the North-West could possibly look was the Conservative party. To my astonishment, at a meeting I held shortly afterwards, a telegram was read from the leader of the Liberal party which, so far as I can remember, and I have a pretty fair memory, said that the statements contained in the Conservative address were false in every particular, and that on every occasion he (Mr. Laurier) had urged a special grant to the half-breeds.

Mr. LAURIER. Hear, hear.

Mr. MACDOWALL. I base my statement on what the hon. gentleman said in the House of Commons on April 14, 1890. During a discussion on this question the hon. gentleman said:

"If my understanding of it is right, it would mean that the half-breeds who were not residents of either Manitoba or the North-West Territories at the time of the acquisition of the Territories in 1870, who did not belong to the ceded territories, but who afterwards removed to Manitoba and the North-West Territories, should be put exactly on the same footing as the half-breeds who were residents of Manitoba and the Territories at that time. I would be prepared to favour such a construction."

The leader of the Government explained to him that that had been done. The leader of the Opposition went on to say:

"The only claim upon which the half-breeds could rest any pretension to any grant by this Government, was the extinguishment of those titles. The extinguishment of those titles can apply only to the Indians who were residents of Canada at the time the territories were ceded to Canada."

That is a particular date. He continued:

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"We cannot admit the principle to any Indians who have removed from the other side of the line to our own territory, and the same principle applies equally to the half-breeds. The half-breeds' title cannot be extinguished in the same manner as that of the Indians, because they had moved out of the ceded territory."

Then the hon. gentleman went on to say, and this is the gist of the matter:

"In my judgment, this individual compensation could apply only to such half-breeds as were residents of our territory at the time it became the possession of Canada—that is to say, in July, 1870."

The leader of the Opposition said, in effect, that those were the only half-breeds who should receive scrip, and he laid down the policy of the Liberal party in regard to the half-breeds in the North-West, for, I presume, he announced the policy of the party.

Mr. LAURIER. The hon. gentleman knows I was not enunciating a policy. I simply said that the statute passed by this House applied only to Indians and half-breeds who were residents in Canada, in 1870.

Mr. MACDOWALL. Well, then, Mr. Chairman, if that is the case I suppose it is fair for me to assume that when my motion comes before the House, referring to the half-breeds in the North-West Territories, that I shall have the support of the hon. the leader of the Opposition.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). We will discuss that when your motion comes up.

Mr. MACDOWALL. I presume he will agree with me in asking for a further grant of scrip to the half-breeds.

Mr. LAURIER. I will join with you, as I have done time and again in this House, in urging upon the Government to carry out the statute passed by this Parliament, granting scrip to the half-breeds of the North-West. If that had been done long ago we would have had no rebellion in the North-West Territories.

Mr. MACDOWALL. If the hon. gentleman is ready to do that, I presume he will go a little further, and I think it is fair for me to assume that he will endorse whatever I may say in urging upon the Government to give further scrip to the half-breeds of the North-West. When this matter comes up I shall be able to explain then the grounds on which I desire this scrip shall be given. The hon. gentleman said that my statement was false in every particular. I say that my statement was not false in every particular, and I maintain and contend that my statement was perfectly true, and that it was perfectly fair for me to assume from these words that the half-breed population should not be granted scrip. I will go further and say that the hon. gentleman said, in concluding his speech:

"The inference is that the scrip should be given, yet not in the manner contemplated by the law, that is, to heads of families and to children born before 1870, and also to children born since. Now, I am not quite sure that this would be judicious, because, unless you draw the line somewhere, these claims will continually arise, and the children who are born next year will have the same claim as those that were born last year, and who have been settled with. I think, on the whole, if we adhered to the policy prescribed in 1870, that no cause of discontent would remain."

When these remarks were made on the resolution of the North-West Assembly asking that scrip should