

shows that the thought of the Department was simply to settle claims of half-breeds by confirming them in their holdings, in which they have never been disturbed by the present Government.

It is stated that

NUMEROUS PETITIONS,

were sent to the government, and that these were not favourably acted upon. It is quite true that petitions were sent, of various kinds. They were sent as far back as 1873. One of the most important, because the most elaborate, was sent on the 5th of April, 1875, by the Right Reverend Bishop Grandin, of St. Albert, and this petition may be taken as an illustration of the general claims made. What was asked by Bishop Grandin, as he himself summarizes the petition, was:—

1.—Some encouragement for the settlers.—On this point he stated:—

"The Catholic missionaries have done almost impossible things in this direction. They have at different places, three mills. For the third time we have tried to erect one in the colony of St. Albert—behold, more than £900 sterling which we have sacrificed for it, and we are still uncertain whether we shall succeed. That the Government may on their part deign to do something to encourage agriculture."

"2.—Aid for a hospital—at least to construct it, and put it in condition to receive the sick."

"3.—Aid for schools.—The Government makes large outlay for education in all Canada; is our Northwest to be alone without assistance? It cannot be said that we require help less than other parts of the country."

"4.—Aid for our orphan asylums, that we may increase these establishments, so as to be able to take in a greater number of little savages."

"5.—Concessions of land for each orphan asylum or model farm."

"6.—Reserves of land for the children thus brought up; and aid to help them on to a little farm once they are married."

"7.—And lastly—that the reserves to be made over to the Indians be of arable land, and situated near fishing lakes."

In the answer from the Lieutenant-Governor, David Laird, written under the authority of the Superintendent-General, Mr. Mills, these requests are thus disposed of:—

"As to the first, namely, the encouragement of agriculture among the settlers, the Superintendent-General cannot but congratulate your Lordship upon the efforts made by the mission, especially by the establishment of mills to enable the settlers to utilize the grain raised in your diocese."

"The Superintendent wishes to remind you that this is a subject which will properly come within the province of the Local Government soon to be inaugurated in the Northwest. He thinks, however, that it is obvious that the measures now being taken by the Dominion Government to carry a railroad and telegraph line through the territories, must have the effect of opening up the country

and of facilitating transport throughout it, and in this way cannot fail to give an impetus to the agricultural interest of the territory."

"The 2nd, 3rd and 4th heads referred to by you are all matters which come especially within the province of the Local Legislature."

"With regard to the third head, however, I may remark that the Dominion Lands Act makes provision by a liberal land grant to aid general educational purposes in the Territories, and so far as the Indians are concerned, the Dominion Government will, no doubt, be prepared, when the territory is surrendered, to make the same provision there as elsewhere by treaty for Indian schools. In the meantime, I am directed by the Minister to transmit to your Lordship an official cheque for the sum of \$300, in aid of the school at St. Albert, authorized by Order in Council of the 22nd October, 1873, as it is assumed from your Lordship's report that the average attendance of Indian children at this school is not less than the number required by the Order in Council, namely, 25."

"Any one of the other schools which your Lordship may think proper to select, will be entitled to a similar amount for the current year, provided, of course, the average attendance of Indian children throughout the year is not less than 25."

"As the fifth head, namely, concessions of land for orphan asylums and model farms, the Superintendent-General is not prepared at present to make any definite pledge on behalf of the Government. On this point, the Superintendent-General will be able to speak more definitely after a treaty has been made, and when the question of the extent of land asked for, for the purposes above-mentioned, is more accurately known."

"The sixth head refers to a large question of public policy, on which it would manifestly be premature at present to pronounce an opinion. The settlers in the North-west have good grounds for believing that the Dominion Government will deal liberally with them. There is a sufficiency of land in the Territories for all of them and their children, and it is earnestly to be hoped that they will cultivate as much of it as possible, and secure to themselves comfortable homes in the country to which they belong."

"As regards the seventh head, namely, the reserves for the Indians: this matter has hitherto been fully provided for in all treaties made with the Indians, by which assistance in money and agricultural implements has always been secured to them, and there can be no doubt that these matters will be dealt with in a similar spirit of liberality in future treaties."

"The reservations secured to the Indians will no doubt have a fair proportion of arable land, and will include, when it is practicable, any fishing lakes which the Indians may desire to avail themselves of."

This petition and the reply to it, are quoted for this purpose: the subjects referred to by Bishop Grandin were, as to many of them, embodied in subsequent petitions, and it is important, therefore, to point out that when presented thus in detail to Mr. Mills, the Minister of the Interior of Mr. Mackenzie's Government, they were met with a blank refusal.

Indeed, it may be worth while to cite one other in proof of this. It was a petition of certain half-breeds, transmitted to Ottawa by Governor Laird, on the 13th February, 1878. The petition had refer-