

during the beginning of 1882-83, a petition was circulated among the citizens of Prince Albert to the House of Commons, and it was presented on the 20th March of that year, bearing the signatures of 394 settlers. It contains this paragraph:

"Whereas there are many half-breeds in this locality and other parts of the North-West Territory who have never taken the treaty, and who were not in Manitoba at the time the census in 1870 was taken, in consequence thereof have not participated in the scrip issued to the half-breeds in that Province."

And this prayer:

"That those half-breeds in the North-West Territory, who have not participated in the scrip issues to the half-breeds in Manitoba may have the same issued to them, thus placing them on the same basis as their brethren in that Province."

In 1883, it seems, Louis Riel visited his old haunts in Manitoba, and became the subject of newspaper comments. On the 9th October, 1883, the North-West Council renewed its application to the Government in this regard. It had done it in 1878; it had done it in 1881; and it did it in 1883:

"Your memorialists further pray that those half-breeds in the Territories who have not participated in the arrangement to extinguish the half-breed claim in Manitoba should enjoy the same rights as accorded half-breeds in that Province."

You will observe that the council had recognised that the time for any other arrangement had now passed; that whatever might have been done to make different arrangements with the half-breeds in the earlier days, when their condition was different, before so much delay and neglect had taken place, could be done no longer; and their suggestion to the authorities, based upon the suggestion of the people there, was that the half-breeds in the North-West Territories should be given the same rights as those in Manitoba had been given. It had come to that at last, after three or four years of suggestion and unavailing pressure. On the 18th October, 1883, the Privy Council referred that memorial to the President of the Council and the Minister of the Interior for action; they had it under consideration until 1885. By that time, the agitation had got high on various questions. There was a mass meeting, on the 17th October, at Prince Albert, of the inhabitants of Prince Albert and the neighborhood. There were resolutions passed and speeches delivered, and these resolutions were ordered to be transmitted by the secretary of the meeting to the Minister, but they have not been brought down. Amongst these was a resolution endorsing the petition of the council of the North-West Territories for a recognition of the right of the half-breeds in respect of the Indian title as in Manitoba. On the 21st of January, 1884, a meeting was held of the settlers of St. Catharines parish to discuss some of their grievances. A committee consisting of W. Kennedy, J. Isbister and W. Swain was appointed to draw up a petition to the Government, setting forth the grievances the people were laboring under in regard to land matters, and praying for redress, and to co-operate with other committees which might be formed, and to wait on Inspector Pearce and ask him to forward the petition to the Government. That petition has not been brought down. It embraced other matters with reference to the lands, but it also embraced, I conceive, a reference to this matter; and my reason for thinking so is because there was a series of meetings held on the same lines, and I find it expressly stated in the resolutions adopted at another meeting. At a meeting in the parish of St. Catharines, held the 21st of January, 1884, Mr. Kennedy moved, seconded by Mr. J. Anderson, and it was resolved:

"That the half-breed people of the North-West Territories are unjustly treated in not having the same privileges as regards land grants and scrip extended to them, which have been enjoyed by their brethren in Manitoba, and pledging the meeting to make its best endeavors to have the injustice redressed."

But no petition founded on that resolution has been brought down. At Lindsay school-house, Red Deer Hill, in the same month a meeting was held and the resolution, passed at St.

Catharines, was endorsed and a committee appointed to draw up a petition; but no indication of the existence of that paper is brought down. On the 28th of January, 1884, a meeting of settlers was held at Haloro settlement on the South Branch, at which the resolutions of St. Catharines and Lindsay were read and adopted. Mr. A. Spence and Mr. M. Corestine were appointed a committee to draw up a memorial to the Government, but no such memorial appears in the papers brought down. Mr. J. Jackson was appointed to obtain the co-operation of the French settlement in carrying out the resolutions passed at the various meetings, and hopes were expressed that the agitation would increase. The same winter there was a meeting at the Hudson Bay store, South Branch, which was attended by Mr. Macdowall, who was the member for that district, having succeeded Mr. Clark. The grievances were discussed, and much was expected of the coming Session of Parliament. On the 26th of February, 1884, a public meeting was held at Colleston school house. Mr. Macdowall, member for Lorne, spoke; he took up the memorandum of North-West Council in reference to settlers grievances and expressed his confidence in the Minister of the Interior, and thought that the grievances stated in the memorial would be redressed. A series of resolutions were adopted including this one:

"That the half-breeds and natives of the Territories are entitled to the same treatment as their more favored brethren in Manitoba receive."

No indication of that is brought down. On the 27th March, 1884, in this House, the special allusion to the affairs of the North-West which took place for the purpose of debate at any rate, was made. I had discussed in general terms the discontent existing in that region on the Address, and on the 27th of March my hon. friend the member for Huron (Mr. Cameron) on the motion to go into Committee of Supply, made a motion in amendment, and made a speech which contains this language:

"I have spoken to you of the Province of Manitoba and the farmers of that Province, but we must recollect that there is another representative body in the North-West, a body of equal, perhaps of greater importance—a body that rules over an area of 20,000 square miles, with a population estimated at from 20,000 to 150,000 people, a body which has sovereign power in the limits given to it by the constitution under which it has its existence. I refer to the North-West Council. They, too, in solemn council assembled, drew up a list of the grievances of which the North-West Territories had to complain. These grievances were sixteen in number—sixteen different grounds of complaint—and all these grounds of complaint have an importance and a significance well worthy the consideration of those who are now at the head of the affairs in this country. I do not propose dealing with those grievances at any considerable length; I propose only referring to one or two of them; but in dealing with any of these grievances we ought to bear in mind that the importance to be attached to a protest of misgovernment, of bad policy, depends very largely on the source whence the protest comes. The first question that naturally arises is: Do the people who complain know whereof they speak? Are they conversant with the position and the circumstances of the country? Do they appreciate thoroughly the trials and the difficulties connected with pioneer settlement? And can they fully appreciate the errors of judgment or policy committed by the Administration in the great North-West? Are they free to give an honest and an unbiassed judgment on the question on which they undertook to pronounce? If they are the friends of the Government, they surely cannot desire to embarrass the Government, and one cannot help coming to the conclusion that there must be some foundation for their complaints. We all know perfectly well that at least four-fifths of the North-West Council are the friends of the Government. Now, let us see what those friends of the Government in the North-West complain of."

And he read their complaint, which contains this clause:

"Your memorialists further pray that those half-breeds in the Territories who have not participated in the arrangement to extinguish the half-breed claims in Manitoba should enjoy the same rights as accorded half-breeds in that Province."

And then a claim for further surveys and river lot surveys. He adds:

"The demands to which I have referred, made by Manitoba and the North-West Council, are of a not unimportant character. They involve very grave consideration. Hon. members acquainted with the country will admit that they affect the growth and prosperity of the whole of