

ders and scandals are without foundation, and have been shown over and over again to be baseless.

Last Session and the Session before attacks were made upon the administration of the Northwest lands, and recently a pamphlet based on these attacks has been sent out by the Tory organization. It is impossible in the short space of this pamphlet to cover all the mis-statements, but two instances may be taken as specimens, as they are amongst the most prominent and characteristic.

One is the accusation against the Department of the Interior, of having squandered the public domain in an ill-advised sale to the Saskatchewan Valley Land Company of 250,000 acres of land in the neighborhood of the now thriving town of Saskatoon. The other is what is insinuated to be favoritism in the sale of certain timber limits to Mr. Burrows, now the representative of Dauphin, and brother-in-law of Mr. Sifton, Ex-Minister of the Interior.

Both these matters were brought up in the House and completely answered by Honorable Frank Oliver, Honorable Clifford Sifton and Mr. Burrows. They still do duty on the platform, however, and might have some effect amongst those who have not read the debates in the House. The facts are these:

THE SASKATCHEWAN VALLEY LAND SALE.

In regard to the Saskatchewan Valley land sale, the Tory Government in 1890 granted in round figures, one million acres to the Qu'Appelle and Long Lake Railway Company, for the building of the railroad. An area of three and a half million acres was set apart, out of which the company were permitted to take their land—to be taken from the odd-numbered sections, the even numbered sections being retained for homesteaders. The company took out about 350,000 acres and then came to the Government, and said there was no more land fairly fit for settlement in the area allotted them. Negotiations went on and about

two years after they demanded from the Government payment in money instead of the land, and offered to take \$1.25 per acre. It is a part of this land, thus rejected by the Company as not fairly fit for settlement, the sale of which to an American Syndicate at one dollar an acre is now declared a scandal. The three and a half million acres out of which this land was to be chosen lies immediately west of the railroad, with good land to the south of it around Regina, and very good land to the north of it around Prince Albert.

Before the sale was made there was no settlement on this line. There was no station on the line for sixty-five miles through this area. Americans who came from the dry States of the Union, where they had been in the habit of handling dry lands, looked this land over and going, to Mr. Sifton offered to pay one dollar an acre for 250,000 acres of it. Mr. Sifton agreed to this but made conditions that they should settle in every township at least twenty settlers on the homesteads and sell eight quarter sections of 160 acres each of their own land to settlers, before they could get a patent on their own land. The people in the Northwest thought this American syndicate very reckless, but the latter went to work in a business like way. They ran excursions, at large expense, to show the land to Americans from their States—farmers and businessmen. They satisfied themselves and others that a good speculation could be made, and agreed to Mr. Sifton's terms.

A Tory newspaper in Winnipeg at this time denounced Mr. Sifton for having bamboozled this American syndicate, and had about injured the credit of the Dominion of Canada in doing so, but today the Government is accused of throwing away the land at a ridiculously low price.

At the time the Americans took over the land there was no railway station on it. They went to the Canadian Pacific Railway and asked for a station in the middle of their tract. The answer was "Yes, we will build you a station but you will have to pay the station agent, because there will be no business in this