

having waited there for some time the Government at last consented to grant what they asked; that this was put in writing, and they went home, giving the news along the line that concessions had been granted. Mr. Laurier says the Government broke its word, and left you with the impression that their word remained to this day broken, and the concessions not granted. Now, I have the particulars of that case with me. Here is the correspondence between Father Ledue and Mr. Maloney and the Government. I will not undertake to read it at length, but will give you a précis of the correspondence. Let me point out how this mission was made by Father Ledue and Mr. Maloney. The Government was making a survey in Edmonton district, and had employed a number of surveyors to do it. One of these surveyors, Mr. Michael Dean, of Lindsay, when he had finished what he was sent to do, went on in other places without being instructed to do so by the Government. When the Government heard what he was doing, he was directed to stop until further instructions were received from Ottawa. The people up there thought the Government intended to abandon the survey altogether, and they sent Father Ledue and Mr. D. Maloney to Ottawa with a petition, containing the following requests:

- 1st. That a river survey be allowed to them, with the two miles limit, as in Prince Albert, North-west Territories, and Manitoba.
- 2nd. Their claims having been occupied for many years, some of them before the transfer, they asked for the recognition of their titles by the Government, and for their patents.
- 3rd. They asked on behalf of the settlements of St. Albert, Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan that the river lot survey be extended from Edmonton to Fort Saskatchewan, both colonies included, "as elsewhere on the Saskatchewan, at Prince Albert, the Assiniboine and Red River."
- 4th. They asked for a land office at Edmonton, so that entries might be made and patents issued on the completion of their duties by the settlers.
- 5th. They asked that persons who had settled in advance of survey should be protected in their rights as if they had settled after survey.
- 6th. They asked for representation in the Parliament of Canada.
- 7th. They asked for the abolition of timber dues.
- 8th. They asked for the appointment of a Registrar at Edmonton or its vicinity.
- 9th. They asked that the road between Edmonton and St. Albert should be confirmed as a public highway.
- 10th. They asked for scrip, as had been given to the half-breeds of Manitoba.

A letter was sent from the Department on the 12th April, 1883, replying to the several demands of the petition, as follows:—

- 1st. The lands were promised to be surveyed into river lots, as requested.
- 2nd. Patents were promised to be issued as soon as the field notes and plans of the Surveyor were sent to the Department.
- 3rd. The request of the people of St. Albert, Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan to have their holdings surveyed into river lots, and the right of pre-emption given to them, was promised.
- 4th. A land agent was promised.
- 5th. The time spent by settlers on lands in advance of survey it was promised should apply in their application for patents as if spent after survey.
- 6th. The question of the representation of the Territories in Parliament, it was said, would engage the attention of the Government.
- 7th. The Government declined to abolish timber dues, holding that they were in the interests of the country, and necessary for the preservation of the timber.
- 8th. It was promised that a Registrar for the Edmonton District should be appointed.
- 9th. The regulation of public highways being within the purview of the Lieutenant-General-in-Council, it was promised that the attention of the Governor should be called to that paragraph of the memorial.
- 10th. It was stated that the Government would consider the question of the claims of the half-breeds of the North-west Territories to scrip.

The Government refused to abolish the timber dues in the interest of the whole country: It was not their policy to abolish them. The regulations allowed any settler to get on the Government land and get out what timber he required for buildings, fencing or fuel, under certain limits, but these little limits were made very wide. If he wanted to go on the Crown lands and cut timber to sell, he must get a permit. So you see the Government promised to grant every request of the petition except that and the one relating to the highway, which was not in their province to deal with, and representation in Parliament, which they reserved for further consideration. — When the deputation, Father Ledue and Mr. Maloney, got home, they learned that the Government had not sent up instructions in regard to the concessions promised, and on July 30th Father Ledue sent a letter to the Department, drawing attention to the delay. The following answer was sent to him:

"Department of the Interior, Ottawa, 3rd Sept., 1883.

"Sir,—I have the honor, by the direction of the Minister of the Interior, to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 30th of July last, and to request that you will be good enough to state in what respect, on your return to St. Albert, you found that the promises contained in the letter of the 12th of April, 1883, which were the promises made verbally to Mr. Maloney and yourself when in Ottawa, had not been fulfilled by the Government. I am to call your attention to the fact that not only was Mr. Michael Dean instructed in regard to the survey, but a portion of his return of survey has already been received, and is at the present time being examined, with a view to con-