

that have been presented to the Federal Government, but we were always handicapped on account of not being able to show documentary evidence as to how our titles originated. We could only tell the Government that our claims were valid and just. On the other hand the Ottawa government could do nothing for us, inasmuch as they were not in possession until very recently of the original titles to our lands. In adjusting our land claims in the past in the Selkirk Estate, the Government have confined themselves, nearly altogether to the copy of survey, that had been handed to Governor Archibald by the late Mr. J.H. McTavish, and also to Register B., already referred to, so that while many of us have been the losers, the Canadian Government are not altogether to blame in refusing to recognize our claims without seeing the proper proofs. However, the case is different now. Six years ago, in 1900, the Federal Government were put in possession of authenticated copies of the original titles to lands in the District of Assiniboia. So that we are now in a position to place our claims before the Government accompanied by evidence that is indisputable.

Referring again to the question, Has anything ever been done in the matter of the claim of the retired servants of the Hudson's Bay Company?

The following attempts have been made to find our lost books and other records and to prove our claims.

1. Reference has already been made to a petition sent to Governor Archibald in 1870. Had Governor Archibald appointed a Commission to enquire into the causes that led to the troubles of 1869-1870, this claim of the retired servants of the Hudson's Bay Company to the one-tenth of

Selkirk's Estate, along with others that would have opened up, would have been clearly proven.

2. On the 27th March, 1884, the late Hon. J. Norquay, at that time Premier of the Province of Manitoba, presented to the Manitoba Legislature, a petition from several of the old inhabitants of the country. The prayer of the petition read as follows:

"That your Honorable House authorized the handing over of all the books and papers, the property and records of the past governments of this country.

That your Honorable House allow the appointment of a committee of investigation to be composed of twelve persons as follows, viz.

Hon. J. Norquay,
Hon. Mr. LaRivière,
Thos. Greenway, M.P.P.,
A. C. Killam, M.P.P.,
J. Ward, Esq.,
F. R. Gemmell, Esq.,
E. P. Leacock, Esq.,
Capt. W. Kennedy,
P. Delorme, Esq.,
J. Martin, M.P.P.,
P. Thibert, Esq.,
J. Taylor, Esq.

That the said committee of investigation be empowered to summon witnesses to ask for books and papers, and to make such enquiry into the past history of this country as shall be deemed advisable and necessary by the committee.

That in the execution of their duties the committee of investigation have full powers.

That upon completion of its work, the committee to report to the local Legislature at its next meeting."

3. In November, 1886, the Hon. J. Norquay wrote a special letter to the Minister of Interior dealing with all our claims to lands, the retired