

said Territories unless they receive some like consideration. That this consideration would most tend to the advantage of the half-breeds were it given in the form of a non-transferable location ticket for, say 160 acres to each half-breed head of a family and each half-breed child of parents resident in the said Territories at the time of the transfer thereof to Canada, the ticket to be issued immediately to any half-breed eighteen years of age or over, on furnishing evidence of claim, and to every child on arriving at that age, and furnishing the necessary evidence."

So you will see that the proposal there was again 160 acres, to be given to the head of a family, and to the child on arriving at the age of eighteen years:

"That each half-breed holding such a location ticket should be allowed to locate it upon any unoccupied Dominion lands, but the title of the land so entered should remain in the Crown for ten years; and if, at the expiration of three years after such entry, the half-breed locatee has made no improvement on the land, his claim thereto shall be subject to forfeiture."

That was the proposal of the North-West Council, a proposal which would have placed every half-breed in an inferior position to any ordinary settler going into the North-West. They were to have 160 acres each; any settler can go into the North-West and get 160 acres. They were to make improvements for three years or were to be deprived of the land; any settler can, on making improvements on his land for three years, get his patent; but they were not to get their patent; the land was to be inalienable for seven years longer, and they were to continue to reside upon it during that time. So that the proposal of the North-West Council was one that would place every half-breed in a position inferior to that of a white settler going in there, and would have left him without any claim, not even the right which is given under the law to any man who chooses to take up a homestead in the North-West. Would anyone pretend to say that the Government would have met the views of the half-breeds if they had accepted that proposition? When the time came to settle these claims with the half-breeds, when they had the opportunity of taking 240 acres for each child of a half-breed born in the Territories before 1870, how many of them took the land? Why, an infinitesimally small number took the land, the great majority taking scrip instead. The papers before the House tell us that a meeting was held at Fort Qu'Appelle at which were adopted resolutions in which the half-breeds declared that they would not take scrip, but would insist upon having land. That was telegraphed down to Ottawa by Mr. Street. Mr. Street was at once instructed to comply with the request of the half-breeds, and give them their settlement in the manner most conducive to their wishes. Yet, when the time came to settle the matter, when the opportunity was given them, I think I am right in saying that but two took land out of all those who put in claims, all the rest taking the half-breed scrip instead. So we have the recommendation of His Grace Archbishop Taché, we have the recommendation of the North-West Council, both of which recommended that land alone should be given, both of which recommended that the half-breeds should remain upon that land on penalty of forfeiture, both of which recommended that land should be inalienable for a certain period, the one for three generations, and the other for ten years; and yet, when the half-breeds came to deal with the matter in their own way, they all took simply scrip, which I am sorry to say most of them sold for a very small sum indeed. They took scrip and thus showed that they did not agree with the suggestion made by those who were perhaps best fitted to advise them, but they took the course which the Government permitted them to take as a last resort rather than allow them to continue to feel that they had any grievances at all. I made this statement in the west a short time ago, and Mr. Jackson, to whom reference has been made, who is a personal friend of my own, with whom I have friendly correspondence all the time, delivered a speech in Fort Qu'Appelle in which he undertook to answer this part of the statement which I made in a speech delivered in Ontario. He said:

"Now, gentlemen, with regard to the question of the issue of scrip or land, just let me say this—and my friend, Mr. Fisher, who was there, will bear me out in it—that, at the first sitting of the commission, I myself and other gentlemen who were presumed to have influence with the half-breeds, urged upon them the almost absolute necessity of taking land. On the first day, about 70 per cent. agreed to take land instead of scrip. In the meantime, and about this time, the fight at Duck Lake had taken place. The Indians felt there that they had whipped the troops. Riel despatched runners and agents all over the country. One was despatched to Fort Qu'Appelle to circulate reports of their success amongst the half-breeds. About this time the rumor reached here from half-breed sources that Riel was to prove victorious, that the half-breeds had better not take land; that they should take scrip, buy what they could, and the land would ultimately belong to them. That is what induced them to take land. (Mr. Fisher. That is so.) These are facts."

Now, Sir, what does that mean? It means that what these people were rebelling for was not the extinguishment of their Indian title but to obtain possession of the country; it was not the permission to hunt for buffalo, nor to fish, but it was simply for the purpose of getting possession of the whole country. As soon as ever, according to the testimony of Mr. Jackson their own friend, there was a prospect of getting the whole country, then they took the scrip. They said: We will take this from the Government in the meantime, it is Government money, and we will have the whole land in the North-West afterwards. Now I should be sorry, for one, to believe so ill of the half-breeds of the Qu'Appelle district, but the testimony comes from two of their friends, from Mr. Jackson, their representative in the North-West Council, and from Mr. Fisher, who was one of their most sincere admirers and trusted leaders, and we cannot do otherwise than to assume that these gentlemen knew what they were talking about when they made such a serious charge against the half-breeds as that they took the scrip because they thought they would get all the land afterwards, and not in any sense in extinguishment of their Indian titles. There were, let me say, other grievances, other complaints, made by the half-breeds. Reference has been made to the letter of Bishop Grandin, and to letters and interviews by father Leduc and Mr. Maloney. Well, Sir, so far as Bishop Grandin is concerned, I am inclined to think that the most important petition presented by him was presented to the late Government, and that as to the principal parts of it, it was dealt with by the late Government. Bishop Grandin said:

"1st. Before all, I ask some encouragement for the settlers. 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 stg. 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.

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

"3rd. Aid for schools. The Government makes large outlay for education in all Canada. Is our North-West to be alone withheld assistance? It cannot be said that we required help less than other parts of the country.

"4th. 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.

"5th. Concession of land for each orphan asylum or model farm.

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

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

Now, Sir, these claims were dealt with as far back as 1875, in a letter addressed by Lieutenant-Governor Laird to His Lordship, under instructions, of course, from the Government here. This is what he says:

"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 utilise the grain raised in your diocese."

Well, Sir, there was some taffy in that, but there was not much substance.

"The Superintendent General 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 North-West. He thinks, however, that it is obvious that the measures now being taken by the Dominion