

on the part of the Government was blocking the path of provincial progress. I have shown that during all that time nothing but promises, promises, promises, were given in return for the support of the country. I have shown that from November, 1873, to September, 1878, their policy was one of indifference and inaction. I have shown that the only effort they made to redeem themselves in the public estimation was on the 7th October, 1878, when they passed their infamous Orders in Council to give to Cook and Sutherland entire control of the timber limits of the North-West. Now, the hon. gentleman who preceded me dealt very strongly and, to a certain extent, very cogently—at any rate, very insultingly—with the policy of the Government led by the right hon. Premier in connection with lands and limits. I stated that I would show by the Orders in Council passed by the preceding Government in 1876, when the hon. member for Bothwell was Minister of the Interior, what their policy was with regard to stake claims. I find, in a report of the Committee of the Privy Council, a memorandum of the 20th April, 1876:

“On a memorandum, dated 29th January, 1876, from the hon. the Minister of the Interior, reporting the existence of certain claims to land in Manitoba, which, he states, do not come clearly within those provided for under the law as it now stands.”

I will take No. 2 of the classification.

“2. Lands alleged to have been taken up, but which were not surveyed as above, or occupied, but merely marked out by the claimants, by stakes, prior to the 15th July, 1877.”

“The second class the Minister submits are not entitled to consideration.”

I have shown by this Order in Council that the policy adopted by the then Minister of the Interior resulted in a number of people leaving Manitoba and going to the North-West. I have stated that those who went there did so as men driven from the Province they had adopted, and, being driven out, became disaffected members of society in the Territories. I have stated further, that upon the Conservative Government coming into power they calmly deliberated the matter, and the result was that on 25th February, 1881, a report of the Committee of the Privy Council was adopted, in which it is stated:

“On a memorandum dated 23rd February, 1881, from the hon. the Minister of the Interior, in reference to the Order in Council of the 20th April, 1876, on the subject of certain claims to land in Manitoba, and adopting a certain mode of dealing with the same.

“The Minister reports that exception has been taken by the persons interested in the operation of that Order, in respect of the particular class of claims set forth in paragraph No. 2 of the same, it being alleged that a settlement of their rights on the basis of the said order would result in injustice to the claimants.”

The Order in Council further stated:

“For convenience in dealing with the question, the Minister classifies the several claims as follows:—

“1. Those of such claims as have changed hands, the purchasers having in some cases gone into possession, and are living on the land at the present time.

“2. Those of the claims so staked out, which remain exactly as they were when it is alleged they were taken up, and are claimed by the persons who staked them out.

“3. Those claims which, since being staked out, have been bought up by other parties, for, it is said, speculative purposes, and are now held with that view, nothing having been done upon them in the way of cultivation or improvement.”

This is the second class dealt with by the Minister of the Interior in 1876:

“Respecting the second class, that the lands be offered to the claimants at the price of railway lands in the belt in which they are found to be situated, but should the claimant in any case prefer to do so, he may accept a homestead entry for 160 acres of the lot, and acquire the balance at the railway lands price, as before mentioned.”

Mr. MILLS. What is the date of that Order?

Mr. MACKINTOSH. The date is the 23rd February, 1881. I have shown that whereas the present Government is charged with dilatoriness, that charge really lies at the door of hon. gentlemen opposite. I have shown by evidence and I can show by further evidence—that hon. gentlemen opposite were absolutely indifferent to the claims of the half-breeds; that they never thought of the claims of the poor Indians, that they thought solely of their friends, and when they enlarged the boundaries of the allotments to

half-breeds to 240 acres, based upon a partial return, and done, many declare, to help those who had bought scrip from the poor half-breeds—they laid the foundation of what has caused half the trouble in the North-West. The hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron) stated that the grievances of the people of the North-West were the result of inaction—inaction in regard to the surveys, indifference, proved by the small number of patents issued, and the non-settlement of claims. I will ask the House to allow me to draw a comparison between the number of patents issued by the present Government and those issued by the preceding Government. The total number of patents issued in Manitoba and the North-West Territories up to the 27th February, 1885, was 23,036. Issued from 5th May, 1873, to January, 1879, 6,500. Those patents were issued and claims settled by hon. gentlemen opposite at a time when they were promising, year after year, from 1873 to 1878, that they would make a final arrangement and have the trouble amicably settled. The number of patents issued from 1st January, 1879, to 27th February, 1885, was 16,537, as compared with 6,500 issued between 1873 and 1879. The hon. member for Bothwell, when Minister of the Interior, wrote to the Dominion land agent, at Winnipeg, as follows:—

“It is not necessary to look up parties who have claims. If they care for their interests they will themselves come forward and establish their claims.”

This letter was in reply to a communication from a gentleman living on the spot, who knew the feelings of the people, who understood the instincts of the people, and saw future trouble engendered from want of policy and want of tact. The Dominion land agent laid down a policy which, if adopted by the hon. gentleman, would have created more happiness and comfort than exists in the North-West and Manitoba to-day.

Mr. MILLS. That observation was made upon a memorandum to Mr. Codd, and Mr. Codd had already suggested exactly the same line.

Mr. MACKINTOSH. I am perfectly willing to accept the explanation of the hon. gentleman; but it is very strange that the Dominion agent, if he desired to induce the Minister to adopt—

Mr. MILLS. It was not an Indian agent. It was Mr. Codd; and if the hon. gentleman will look at Mr. Codd's letter he will find that Mr. Codd presented exactly the same view.

Mr. MACKINTOSH. Then the hon. member has only proved that not alone was he incompetent, but the Dominion agent as well. The hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron) talked about surveys, and said what the half-breeds wanted was surveys. The other night the First Minister displayed a map which afforded very suggestive and significant proof of the lack of action on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite. From that map I find that the land surveyed up to 1873, from the time that Canada became seised of the territory of Rupert's Land, and the North-West Territories, from the time that Manitoba got a constitution, amounted to 9,999,000 acres; and the progressive, brilliant, patriotic, statesmanlike, all-the-talents Government which came in in 1873, succeeded, in five years, by a remarkable effort and an energy almost unparalleled in the history of reform, in surveying 1,797,000 acres. I find that under the present incompetent, ignorant, imbecile Administration which I have the honor to support, and which the country endorsed, from the time they came into power, in 1879, down to 1884, there were 55,618,500 acres surveyed. And we are told that what the half-breeds want, and what the poor starving Indians want, are surveys. Well, Sir, I do not know what food could be extracted from a survey by a starving Indian; I do not know what particular pleasure would accrue to a half-breed by seeing surveys, from which he was deriving