

ST THE GOVERNMENT

considered the climax

It is said that the surveying of the delay settling those; those people their actually sold the land half-breeds, and that colonization com-

recently some little t and injury of those The Prince Albert you have, I dare say, recently, as well as

zie Bowell (cheers) u not going to insult by entering a er of this kind. Mr.

ll enough known in ire any defence. I and his integrity and the Crown, for his ach. (Cheers.) Be-

s latest charge, let hing about coloniza- y. Large quantities colonization compan-

to Ottawa and chose and chose to pay the to undertake the which the Govern-

ard to settlement of say who chose to do under the coloniza- had the pleasure rest of meeting my Armstrong, in his

aded by his friends ave had dozens of let- and you will be glad to in the highest possible Armstrong and the manages their affairs. I

ing through the lands mpany, which adjoins a company, "The Sas- Homestead Company," settlers how much they Colonization company the measure of success nce their settlement in ese colonization com-

a mistake in some of hected with them; you this, gentle- for their expenditure there are large tracts

of the Northwest, which are now well settled and which have prosperous homes, which would be a desert to-day as far as settlement is concerned, were it not for the colonization companies. (Applause.) To-day we have a considerable population in the Northwest, and we owe it in great part to the colonization companies. The projectors of

THE PRINCE ALBERT COLONIZATION COMPANY

went to Ottawa like any other, and they got their lands on the 11th April, 1882. They got eight townships, or fractions of townships, and they paid the first instalment of the money, which, if I mistake not, was \$20,000. At the time the Prince Albert company got these lands the townships were not surveyed; the earliest survey took place in March and the latest in September, 1883, and when the surveys were made there was not a single settler on the land. In May, 1883, the company applied for a change in one of the townships, namely township 43, range 27, west of the second meridian, for south part of township 45, range 27. The survey of this latter took place in July, 1882, and of the four settlers found upon it at that time there was only one French—if we are to judge by the names—a man named Boucher, the other three being English. When Mr. Stephenson, the inspector of colonization companies, went there in 1884 he found that there were twenty-seven settlers upon this township. These persons had gone in after the survey was made, and under the principle laid down by Mr. Mills, that the half-breed should be treated no better than the white settler, and squatting on surveyed land not being permitted according to law, those twenty-seven persons were entitled to no consideration. They had built eleven houses and made some little improvement, such as cultivating three or four acres. But those settlers did not run any risk in consequence of the Colonization company taking the land. To show how careful the Government has been, I may tell you that they never give lands to any railway or colonization company or to any individual taking a large tract of land, without making a provision in the contract that settlers found there must be protected in their possession. (Cheers.) Even in the leases we give to ranching companies, who are developing an enormous cattle interest in the Northwest, we provide that settlers may take up homesteads on lands leased, the homesteads being at once withdrawn from the operation of the lease to the ranching

company, so careful is the Government that the settlers' claims shall have the first consideration. (Cheers.) Let me read you the clause in the Prince Albert company's agreement bearing on this:

"Should any portion or portions of the lands forming the subject of this agreement be now occupied by any person or persons who may have settled thereon, such person, and those claiming through them shall not be disturbed in their possession by the company, unless with the consent in writing of the Minister of the Interior; and the Minister of the Interior may, if he think it expedient so to do, from time to time, give to the company written notice that the lands in possession of such persons respectively, and such adjoining lands as he may think proper (but not exceeding in the whole 320 acres for each separate settler), are withdrawn from the operation of these presents, and thereupon such lands shall become withdrawn and this agreement shall thereupon cease and determine with respect thereto."

There was not a single settler disturbed by the Colonization company, for the reason that settlers' claims were thus absolutely and in express terms protected. But, gentlemen,

THE JOKE OF THE WHOLE MATTER

is in the fact that while the order-in-council was passed transferring this special south part of a township to the Colonization company, the transfer never took place at all, and the company never took possession of the land. (Laughter.) That, gentlemen, is the truth about the Prince Albert Colonization company. (Applause.) I have shown you, so far as the surveys were concerned, that the surveyors complied with the wishes of the half-breeds in every way, and I have shown you, in so far as the lands were concerned, that the commission was issued before the outbreak of the rebellion, and I have shown you that, more liberal than was recommended by prominent authorities in the Northwest, such as Archbishop Tache and the Northwest council, the Government offered the half-breeds the land without any question of settlement duty whatever and with absolute title from the first. The enormous proportion who took scrip and afterwards sold it showed how little they regarded the grievances that we are told caused them to rebel. I have said that these were the only two claims which came to the Government from the Northwest, but this statement must in some degree be qualified. A petition, or rather a draft petition, was sent down to the Government by

MR. JACKSON, RIEL'S SECRETARY,

and accompanying it was a note saying that