

development of the country, they could hardly grant that reserves of the size he mentioned should be set apart and remain untaxable or inalienable for three generations. It would not have stood the test for ten years (cheers). This plan provided that unless there was continuous settlement for three years, the half-breed should lose his land. That request was unnecessary. They had the right to go in and break up the land, live at least six months in the year for three years, and having fulfilled that condition, they could get their patents. This request placed them in a worse position than the ordinary white settler (cheers). That has been the course the Government has pursued, but these people pressed for the half-breed scrip, and in this conflict of suggestion and advice, coming from important authorities in the North-west, the cause of the Government was one of difficulty, but the Government determined, nevertheless, to comply with the request of the half-breeds and give them the scrip. It is said they did not do this until the echo of gun at Duck Lake reached the Departmental buildings at Ottawa. I have here the Order-in-Council passed on the 28th of January, 1885, two full months before the rebellion broke out, authorizing the issue of this scrip, and at the head of the Commission sent up was your respected citizen (cheers). What do you think of men who, in the face of that fact, insist that the Government did not move until after the fight at Duck Lake? (Cheers.) I have made a good many challenges at a great many places, that anyone should place his finger on the name of a half-breed who had been deprived of a foot of land through the action or inaction of the Government (great cheering). That challenge remained unanswered until Mr. Laurier spoke in the great Market Hall in Montreal the other day, and repeated his speech in Ontario. What was the answer he gave? In the first place, he said this Government have kept back papers. "This Government have refused to give us papers which would enable us to meet this challenge. Although they have done that, I have discovered two cases which I may cite." One was a case mentioned in a letter of Father Andre's, in which it was said by Mr. Laurier that one Mr. Kelly had jumped his claim and put up a frame house upon it, and the other was the case of Moses Salter, in the parish of St. Louis de Langevin, in the latter case the accused being a half-breed. Even if these cases were as Mr. Laurier stated them they would be of the most ordinary character. Claims are being jumped all the time. To jump the claim of a settler if he happens to be off his land is a most common occurrence in the North-west. If these cases were as stated they would not be cases of a man being put off his land through either the action or inaction of the Government. But what is the fact? I doubt not that most of you have read in the *Free Press* the letter of Mr. Kelly, who curiously enough happened to be in the town of Sarnia (applause). In that letter he gives the full particulars of the dispute with Father Andre, which was a matter entirely between Father Andre and the half-breed. Father Andre wanted to put the half-breed off, and the half-breed unwilling to continue a quarrel with the priest, sold out his claim to Mr. Kelly. Mr. Kelly was pressed to leave, and his brother, who had settled on Hudson's Bay land, and in connection with which the Government had confirmed him, advised him to have no quarrel with the good priest, and so he sold out for \$100. He took that \$100, and that was the end of it (cheers). I received to-day, however, from my own Department the record of this case. This case of Kelly's was not given in the letter of Father Andre's as a complaint against the Government. It was a letter asking for the appointment of a land agent at Prince Albert, and this case was given as illustrating the evils which might arise from the absence of that agent. That letter of Father Andre's was dated the 7th of June, and in the month of August following the land agent was appointed (cheers). That was the way Father Andre's letter was answered (renewed cheers). That was the way the Government turned an indifferent ear to the representations of these people. The other case was that of Salter's. I find that Salter did make an entry for land, for a quarter section in the parish of St. Louis de Langevin; but there is no record that any half-breed was ever in possession. It is found that shortly after making entry, for what reason does not appear, he asked himself for the cancellation of the entry. The entry was cancelled, the land reverted to the Crown, and that was the end of the case (cheers). That is the case with which Mr. Laurier tried to harrow up your feelings, and by the citation of which he undertook to prove that he, Privy Councillor of the Crown, would have been justified in shouldering his musket on the banks of the Saskatchewan and turned it against the enemy (tremendous cheering). But Mr. Laurier in Toronto, and I suppose here, cited another case which he said proved the wrong which had been done by the Government in dealing with petitions. He referred to the case of Father Leduc and Mr. Maloney to Ottawa, and that

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