

Other cases of hardship, however, might be mentioned. In 1876, the garrison at Winnipeg was perfunctorily reduced, at one week's notice, from one hundred to fifty men, the remainder being suddenly set adrift several weeks before their term of enlistment had expired; though, had they ventured thus abruptly to terminate the contract, they would have been liable to trial by court-martial for desertion. These men did not receive their warrants for nearly two months, and, the first issue of half-breed scrip having been made in the meantime, the value had shrunk from one hundred to fifty dollars. This occurrence really took place, but neither the administration of the day nor that which succeeded it could be prevailed upon to entertain the claim of the sufferers to compensation, though a respectful petition was sent to both Houses of Parliament.

Such experience by men suddenly thrust out of steady employment through no fault of their own, where the issue of but fifty warrants was concerned, might be deemed ominous of years of weary waiting, in the case of the six thousand officers, non-commissioned officers, and men now looking for the benefit to which they are entitled; but happily the energy infused into the Militia Department by Sir Adolphe Caron, and the increased efficiency of the Department of the Interior under the present Deputy Minister, afford some ground for indulging the hope that official routine will be expedited so far as possible, and give a perfect assurance that any enquiries [see page 12] on points which the writer may have omitted to touch upon will be replied to with courtesy and promptitude.

ELIGIBLE CLAIMANTS FOR BOUNTY.

Those only are entitled to claim a land grant (or scrip in lieu thereof) who were members of the "enrolled militia force actively engaged, and bearing arms, in the suppression of the Indian and half-breed outbreak, and serving west of Port Arthur since the 25th March, 1885, including officers, non-commissioned officers, and men." [See page 11.] The heirs of grantees killed in action, or who have died, since the above date, succeed to the rights of the deceased.

NATURE OF THE BOUNTY.

The bounty on the present occasion differs materially in form from that which used to be granted to discharged soldiers or Mounted Policemen, by what were known as land warrants, which authorized the grantee to select and enter, as a free grant, one quarter-section (or 160 acres) of any Dominion Lands open for sale at one dollar per acre. With the increase of settlement in the North-West, and the necessity for the appropriation of a large portion of the public domain in aid of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, occasion arose for the Government to increase the general price of public lands available for purchase, or as pre-emptions, from \$1 to \$2 and \$2.50 per acre.* To meet the difficulty which this step involved, in that it had the effect of locking up all lands from location by bounty warrants still unutilized, the Dominion Lands Act, 1883, (see 46 Vic., chap. 17, sec. 21,) declared that such warrants should be received, "at the value shown upon their face, in payment for any

* By the Dominion Lands Regulations of December 23rd, 1881, surveyed lands in Manitoba and the North-West Territories were divided into certain classes, according to locality and the extent of the railway facilities existing or in immediate prospect. As a result, the price of all lands purchasable by pre-emption in that portion of the country lying within twenty-four miles of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, between such main line and the international boundary, and also within twelve miles on either side of any projected line of railway (other than the C.P.R.) approved by Order in Council published in the *Canada Gazette*, was fixed at \$2.50 per acre. Elsewhere, i.e., to the north of the Canadian Pacific Railway belt and outside of any other railway belts, if west of the second initial meridian, the price of pre-emptions is fixed at \$2 per acre.