

Here the hon. gentleman who objects to the land regulations of this Government, under this clause of a colonisation Bill introduced the system of clothing the Governor in Council with power to fix the cash price, and, unless the poor settler paid the cash, he had to get off. Then the villages, the town sites, all these were pounced upon, and section 28 provided that:

"Nothing in this Act shall be construed as binding the Government to acknowledge any right to land settled on, or for any improvements effected on and within the limits of any tract reserved for a village or town site along or upon the line of railway, after public notice shall have been given of such land being reserved for such purpose."

That is, if parties were on the land, if they had squatted on the land—the hon. gentleman (Mr. Mills) shakes his head. He can shake his head now, but had this Act been in force, we would have hung his head regretfully instead of shaking it:

"And in case of any person having settled on land found to be necessary for villages or for town sites."

If any of the railway autocrats came along, and said to the Minister of Interior: I want that land; we are going to build a station there, or a church, or to locate a town there, or to lay the foundation of a large village, the settler would have to go off, no matter if he had his family around him, and if he had surrounded himself with all the sources of comfort. What was to take place?

"Although such settlement may have been effected previous to public notice as above."

Although no notice had been there to warn him that he was going on forbidden ground, yet that august gentleman, the Minister of the Interior, because Reform Ministers are all august, assumed autocratic power:

"the Minister of the Interior may resume possession of such lands,—"
May come out in the character of bailiff, clothed with purple and fine linen, and may tell the settler that the land is wanted and he must go. But there was a compensation. What was it?

"and compensate such person, by allotting him other land in lieu thereof, and paying for his improvements."

That is, a man goes to Regina, takes his son with him, takes his family, surrounds them with comforts, and the Government tell him: There is no land there; it is given to a company that is going to build a railway. Well, he asks: I can go to Qu'Appelle? No; there is another railway company there. Where can I go? Well, you can go north of Fort Pitt. That is precisely the power the Government took to itself, and this is the policy the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron) has, since last night, been endeavoring to defend. The hon. member wanted to know something about half-breed claims and half-breed lands, and he shed a good many crocodile tears on the subject. He has asked us to rub the sponge over the slate and commence at 1879, but we cannot do that. The legacy left by the previous Government is what has worked much of the trouble in the North-West to-day and we cannot possibly trace that or prove it, or substantiate it, unless we go to that record and see the policy which they followed, the mistakes which they made, the wrongs they committed, and the entangled web which they left hon. gentlemen who succeeded them in office to unravel. That so called Reform Government was in power in November, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876; they were in power in 1877 and during a part of 1878, and the country breathed freely during the latter part of 1873, when they went out. They were in power in 1877, and what was the evidence recorded by their own friends at that time? During the Session of 1877 Mr. Ryan, of Marquette, who supported them most of the time they were in power, on a motion for correspondence in regard to half-breed lands in Manitoba, said:

"From the time the reserves were established, in 1872, nothing was done about the matter until 1875, although occasionally a good deal was said. During the latter Session he called the attention of the House and the Government to the fact that these reserves were blocking the path
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of provincial progress. The hon. Mr. Laird, at that time Minister of Interior, in reply to a question asked by him, stated that the delay in settling the matter had arisen from conflicting claims, called staked claims. At the same time, the hon. gentleman took occasion to assure him that a decision had been arrived at upon the question of staked claims, and that the Government were prepared at once to proceed to the distribution. He (Mr. Ryan) knew fully at the time, as he knew now, that the answer was neither full nor satisfactory. As in many reserves, amongst others, the reserves for the half-breeds of White Mud River, Portage la Prairie, High Bluff and Poplar Point, in the county of West Marquette, not a single case of staked claims had arisen, and, therefore, there was no reason for the delay in these parishes."

Although there were no stake claims, the Minister stated to his friend, in 1875, that it was on account of the stake claims in this particular district that the lands had not been allotted. I will show more than that:

"The year passed away, but the promise respecting the distribution of the reserves had not been fulfilled."

Now, if Mr. Ryan had known the hon. gentlemen opposite as we know them, and as the people of Ontario have known them since 1874, he would have known that never, during all their existence as a party, did they ever carry out in power what they had promised in Opposition. But Mr. Ryan was an innocent man, and he left the House disappointed, and, I believe, took a seat upon the bench a year or two after:—

"The year passed away, and again, during the course of last Session, he felt it to be his duty to remind the Minister of the Interior that his promise respecting the distribution of the reserves had not been fulfilled. Again he had received an assurance that the Government were going to abate the nuisance at once and to distribute the reserves. Another twelve months having expired, he found his half-breed constituents and the Province of Manitoba precisely in the same position they had occupied during the last five years."

Here were gentlemen who, for four years, had been making promises and making exaggerated statements of their duties in regard to the allotment of these lands, whereas the statements of the settlers show there were no stake claims. I will shortly prove that while they were telling the settlers about these stake claims, and holding them up as a raw head and bloody bones, they had already passed Orders in Council, in 1876, refusing to recognise in any way whatever with stake claims. Mr. Mills, in reply, stated:

"On assuming office, his attention was almost immediately directed to the subject. The hon. member for Marquette was, of course, aware that provision was made for the allotment of the land into half-breed settlements, and that before any action was taken claims were put forward on behalf of private parties to particular tracts of land within the district. On investigation, it was found that there were several hundreds of these claims. All possible information was obtained, in order that the claims might be disposed of at the earliest practicable day; and he trusted that this would be very soon. The Government were fully aware of the mischief which had resulted to Manitoba from no action being taken in allotting the land, and they had considered the injury occasioned by locking up lands by merely changing the form of reservation."

To-day the hon. gentlemen charge the Government with offences for which they themselves are responsible, by adopting their policy with regard to stake claims and refusing to admit settlers' claims. There were in the North-West men of influence, men of substance, men of industry, who were driven off their lands by the action of these hon. gentlemen. Some of the very disaffected parties who are now inciting trouble in the North-West are people who were driven out of Manitoba by the Orders in Council passed by the hon. gentlemen opposite.

It being six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

After Recess.

Mr. MACKINTOSH. I have shown that the party opposed to the present Government, from 1869 up to the present time, has on all occasions utilised any sectional or national troubles to benefit themselves and to promote their party's interest, irrespective of the effect it would have upon the country in general. I have shown that throughout their policy has been one for office and not for the promotion of the country's interests. When the House rose at recess I was referring to the settlement of the half-breeds' land in Manitoba, and the non-allotment of those lands in 1877. I showed that the then Minister of the Interior admitted that the dilatory policy of the Government worked mischief to Manitoba; I have shown that one of the representatives of Manitoba stated that the lack of attention to their duties