

found that out of ninety-one names, seventy-eight were of half-breeds whose Indian titles had been extinguished in Manitoba. Now, let me again refer to the course which Mr. Mills pursued in regard to these. I ventured the other night, when speaking in Peterboro, to quote from a letter of Mr. Matthew Ryan to the agent of the Government at Winnipeg, in which he pointed out that great dissatisfaction would follow if he was not permitted to hunt up half-breeds, who go from one place to another, to settle their claims. In answer to this Mr. Mills, across the letter of Mr. Ryan, in his own handwriting, which I have seen, wrote: "Those people, if they have any claims, should look after them themselves; it is not our business to hunt them up." (Cheers.) More than this, I examined yesterday a list sent down by Mr. Codd, the agent of the Department of the Interior in Winnipeg at that time, and which list contained a schedule of the half-breeds who claimed to have the right of scrip or a grant of lands. These half-breeds were known as traders. They were engaged in hunting in the territories, but returned at stated periods to Manitoba, where their families were supposed to reside, with a view of selling their furs, the produce of the chase. I venture to think that, under the order-in-council passed by Sir John in 1872, in which it was declared that the most liberal interpretation with regard to the term resident should be given in dealing with the half-breeds, these men were entitled to their claims. Well, out of those fifty-three claims only four were admitted by Mr. David Mills, and forty-three were absolutely rejected in this way: by writing after each name "No, D. M.," "No, D. M." and so on. (Laughter.)

A voice—He didn't go to much trouble anyway.

The Hon. Mr. WHITE—That was Mr. Mills' style, and the "No, D. M." was in his own handwriting. It was in the curtest possible way with a view, if possible, of doing as little for the half-breeds as could possibly be done. (Hear, hear.) Gentlemen, I am not attacking Mr. Mills. He may have been quite right in acting as he acted; but what I do say is this, that having so acted he should have at least the decency to hold his tongue at a time like this and not attack the administration for so-called delays or remissions. (Cheers.) Gentlemen, the

LATEST CHARGE MADE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

is what seems to be considered the climax of Conservative iniquity. It is said that not only did they delay the surveying of the lands; not only did they delay settling those land claims and giving those people their scrip, but that they actually sold the land over the heads of those half-breeds, and that they gave the lands to a colonization company, which has acquired recently some little notoriety, to the detriment and injury of those unfortunate half-breeds. The Prince Albert Colonization company you have, I dare say, heard a good deal about recently, as well as about the Hon. Mackenzie Bowell (cheers) and his son-in-law. I am not going to insult you or Mr. Bowell by entering a defence for him in a matter of this kind. Mr. Bowell's character is well enough known in this country not to require any defence. I am not going to defend his integrity and honor as a minister of the Crown, for his character is above reproach. (Cheers.) Before I deal with this latest charge, let me say *en passant* something about colonization companies generally. Large quantities of land were given to colonization companies. Any one who went to Ottawa and chose to select certain lands, and chose to pay the price upon them, and to undertake the very severe conditions which the Government exacted with regard to settlement of those lands—anyone I say who chose to do this could get lands under the colonization system. I had the pleasure when in the Northwest of meeting my good friend, Mr. Armstrong, in his own domain, surrounded by his friends—men from whom I have had dozens of letters since my return—and you will be glad to know that they speak in the highest possible terms of praise of Mr. Armstrong and the manner in which he manages their affairs. I had the pleasure of going through the lands of the Colonization company, which adjoins the York Colonization company, "The Saskatchewan Land and Homestead Company," and of hearing from the settlers how much they were indebted to the Colonization company and to its managers for the measure of success they had met with since their settlement in the Northwest. These colonization companies may have been a mistake in some of the details connected with them; but I will tell you this, gentlemen, that, but for their expenditure and their efforts, there are large tracts