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# THE RIEL REBELLION.

HOW IT BEGAN — HOW IT WAS CARRIED ON — AND  
ITS CONSEQUENCES.

## SUCCINCT NARRATIVE OF THE FACTS.

### HALF-BREED GRIEVANCES.

In beginning the thorough study of the Riel question, the grievances of the half-breeds form the most prominent point. There is no need to follow those who, with one object or another, go back to the rebellion of 1869-70 and try to seek in it for causes and effects in some respects foreign to the present question. In taking this course, we have the authority of Louis Riel himself, who immediately on his return to the North-West declared before a large meeting of the half-breeds, which he had convoked: "The Riel of 1869 and he of 1884 are two very different men. In '69 he rose against Canada, which sought to take possession of the country without making a previous arrangement to guarantee the rights of the population of Manitoba and the North-West. But to-day the North-West is an integral part of Canada, and after an experience of nearly nine years passed in the United States, he can assure his fellow-countrymen, the half-breeds, that they are better on this side of the line, and that he does not wish them to become Americans." (Letter from Father André to Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney, 21st July, 1884.) These words of the half-breed chief prove conclusively that he himself considered the Government of Canada as perfectly legitimate, and that, in his opinion, there was a clearly drawn line of demarcation between the events of 1869-70 and those whose history we are now about to attempt writing.

These grievances, so far as it has been possible for us to ascertain, are reduced, at the moment of Riel's arrival, to the six following:

1. The half-breed settlers did not receive letters patent for their lands, in consequence of delays for which the Government alone was responsible, and by which they were prevented from obtaining the lands on which they were settled.
2. That in consequence of the system of survey, they could not obtain the lands on which they had settled and improved previous to the survey.
3. That they were entitled to the same rights as those granted to the half-breeds of Manitoba.
4. That the lands which they had resided on for years, had been sold to others, principally speculators, in disregard of their rights.
5. That the timber dues were very onerous and a serious cause of dissatisfaction.
6. That the dues for cutting hay on Government lands were also onerous and produced a deep feeling of discontent.

Let us examine these six grievances.

1. The half-breeds claim letters patent for their lands.

It appears from the papers, that, contrary to the assertions of the half-breeds, it was so much the Government as the half-breeds themselves who were to blame.

Here is what Mr. Pearce's report says on this subject:—

"During my first visit to Prince Albert, in August, 1883, I instructed Mr. Gauvreau, then assistant agent, a French Canadian, to visit every French settler, half-breed or otherwise, in the district, ascertain what particular quarter-section he was on, and urge him to make entry. This he did; but, although the Roman Catholic priest urged them in a like

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