

not entitled to any portion of the 1,400,000 acres. There was a report made as late as 1874 by Mr. Provencher, who was at that time Indian Superintendent in Manitoba. He says in reference to these half-breeds:

"Many hundreds were put on the list of Indians, and have been there since 1871. These half-breeds live with the Indians, they have the very same habits, and naturally form part of the tribe in accordance to the Act above mentioned. Their position would be quite regular if they had not afterwards shared in the land specially set apart for half-breeds, and if they did not exact constantly increased payments in a proportion which it is impossible to determine before hand."

Now the report of the Indian Superintendent of Manitoba at that time shows that a very considerable number of those who were embraced in Mr. Archibald's census, had been dealt with as an Indian population, and were not entitled to share in the 1,400,000 acres, although they were enumerated. We find a delay occurred in the distribution of the lands for another reason. In the lands that were reserved for the half-breeds, was embraced what was called the outer two miles, in which the original white settlers along the banks of the Assiniboine and the Red Rivers claimed a hay privilege, which they said they derived from the Hudson Bay Company, and so it was found necessary, when commissioners were appointed by the Government of hon. gentlemen opposite to enquire into the claims of those parties, to alter the limits of the half-breed reservations, and to embrace a considerable portion of the territory that had been reserved for them in the lands that were to be granted to the original settlers along those rivers. I find that at this time Mr. Codd sent a telegram to the Minister of the Interior, then Mr. Campbell, in which he pointed out that the difficulty had been complicated by the Hudson Bay Company claiming one-twentieth of this outer two miles, and he called Mr. Campbell's attention to the fact that the Hudson Bay Company had themselves created the rights of the original settlers, and he did not think were entitled to share in those lands. Mr. Campbell informed him that the two miles were to be taken from the half-breed grant, and were to be given to the original settlers, and the Hudson Bay Company were to be otherwise satisfied. Now this was on the 1st November, 1873, or nearly three years after the census had been taken; so the House will see that if Mr. Archibald's census had been acted upon the right hon. gentleman had three years to make this distribution amongst the half-breeds before he retired, in November, 1873.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). Do I understand the hon. gentleman that nothing was done between the enumeration and this particular action in November, 1873?

Mr. MILLS. I say there was no distribution made. There was not a single half-breed who received any allotment. There was no allotment made to any portion of the half-breed population until 1877.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). That is not quite correct.

Mr. MILLS. I have already pointed out that the Government, in 1874, finding that no provision had been made for the half-breed heads of families, provided that they should receive each 160 acres. In fact they were put in exactly the same position as they had been placed by an amendment to the Act of their predecessors in office.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). Is that the Act of 1874?

Mr. MILLS. Yes. There were a considerable number of claims made by white settlers, and in some instances by the half-breeds themselves; there were what was called the stake claims, and there were other claims besides, and until these claims were disposed of in each particular district that had been reserved, no distribution of lands could take place. Well, in May, 1875, the Government of Mr. Mackenzie appointed Mr. Ryan and Mr. Machar as commissioners to enquire into all these claims, and to ascertain the number

of the half-breed children, who were entitled to share in the 1,400,000 acres. I find that Mr. Machar, during the following year, reported on 3,180 claims that he had investigated; Mr. Ryan had reported on 4,988, or something over 9,000 claims altogether, in which is included the claims of all parties who were entitled to share under anyone of the particular Statutes to which I have referred. The hon. gentleman referred to a memorandum which I had written across the face of a communication made to me by Mr. Codd:

"It is unnecessary to look up the parties who have claims if they care for their interests they will themselves come forward and established their claims."

Now, was it necessary to look after these claims? I may say, Mr. Speaker, that it had come to my personal knowledge that in many cases, when the commissioners were in the Territories, engaged in investigating the half-breed claims, speculators put in their appearance to whom the half-breeds had disposed of their claims almost immediately for a few dollars, and sometimes for even a less sum of money. If the hon. gentleman will look at Mr. Ryan's letter which has been referred to, he will see that Mr. Ryan puts the two questions; whether it was the intention of the Department that he should put himself in communication with the half-breed claimants by visiting the locality in which they reside, or whether he should act on their behalf as they might casually come before him in the course of the discharge of his magisterial duties. That communication of Mr. Ryan was forwarded to the land agent at Winnipeg, and by Mr. Codd was forwarded to the Department. Mr. Codd accompanied Mr. Ryan's communication with his own opinion upon the subject, which opinion was based upon the experience he had acquired during the twelve months that had already elapsed. We found that the only effect of continuing to keep open the enquiry would be simply to delay the distribution. We felt that it was necessary, as soon as we could, to ascertain approximately the number of half-breed children who were entitled to share in the distribution, we thought it was desirable the distribution should be made, and that if the half-breeds themselves valued the interests which had been created by the Manitoba Act, they would not hesitate to come forward and make their claims. In fact, one of the difficulties that presented itself to the Government was how to make this distribution as valuable to the half-breed population as possible. I may notice here that the correspondence, which the hon. gentleman brought down last year and which is here embraced, is very incomplete. I find that more than one communication is missing. The memorandum to which the hon. gentleman has referred, which was written by me across the face of Mr. Codd's letter, was simply an instruction to the Surveyor General, in order that he might communicate the answer of the Department to Mr. Codd. And yet the answer of the Surveyor General is not included here. I find in the next page a telegram by Mr. Codd, referring to a letter of the 12th of July; and yet the letter of 12th of July is not here. And so we find the hon. gentleman in this correspondence has brought down just what it was thought convenient, and what would suit him, and what is calculated to give the House a very inadequate and, in some instances, a misleading notion as to what was actually done. The memorandum to which the hon. gentleman refers, and which was written by me across the face of Mr. Codd's letter, is a memorandum signed "D. M.", and the reason was that those happen to be my initials; and I know it is the usual practice of Ministers, when making a note approving or disapproving of a recommendation or suggestion, or making a suggestion, to attach their initials thereto. I believe it was done by my predecessor in office, and I suppose it is done by the present Minister; and I subscribed those