

abortive (cheers). Although the Government refused to do that, they made a provision by which these people could get their land on the river lot principle after all. Here, for instance, is the letter of the Surveyor-General, bearing date 14th February, 1884, which was long before Riel went into the country and the rebellion broke out, showing how the wishes of these people could be met. That letter was confirmed by an Order-in-Council. I will read the suggestions in that letter:

"The wishes of the settlers could easily be met, without inconvenience or prejudice to the Government, by adopting the following course:

"1st. If the Inspector of Agencies, when on the ground, should be satisfied that the great majority of settlers in a township desire river lots, then he should have power to direct that every homestead fronting on the river in that township shall be composed of four quarter-quarter sections, forming a lot of twenty chains in width by one mile in depth.

"2nd. Except when all the occupants of a section prefer having it allotted into quarter sections, in which case their request should be complied with.

"3rd. Except when all the occupants of two sections desire that the lots shall be ten chains in width, and should extend two miles to the depth of two sections, in which case their request should also be complied with.

"A lot of twenty chains wide by one mile deep would be described in the patent as composed of four quarter-quarter sections.

"A lot of ten chains wide by two miles deep would be described as the western, eastern, northern or southern halves of eight quarter-quarter sections.

"The areas could easily be found by reference to this office."

This letter of Mr. Deville's was acknowledged in one from the Secretary of the Department, on the 20th of March, 1884, stating the approval of the Minister of the suggestions, and informing Mr. Deville that the Inspector of Dominion Lands Agencies had been instructed in accordance with them. The following letter also throws light upon that point:

"Technical Branch, Ottawa, 26th Nov., 1883.

"Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 23rd inst., in which you ask the names of the rivers in the North-west Territory, the frontages of which have been surveyed into river lots, I beg to state that the standing instructions are to lay out river lots along the Saskatchewan, Battle, Bow, Red Deer and Belly Rivers.

"Special instructions have also been given to lay out river lots along the shores of Lake Winnipeg and of the islands in it, and also in three townships fronting on Old Man's River.

"I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

E. DEVILLE,

"Chief Inspector of Surveys.

"J. N. HALL, Esq., Secretary Dep't of the Interior."

They not only adopted that course, you see, but they actually sent Mr. Duck, land agent at Prince Albert, to instruct the people how they could get their patents in this way, and also to induce them to make their entries after this plan (cheers). Mr. Duck got Father Andre and Mr. Mailliet to go with them to interpret the matter to the half-breeds; and yet, in spite of all that, they refused to make their entries, because there were emissaries among them who were anxious to make trouble (cheers.) That is the whole question of the river lot surveys. Outside of this parish of St. Louis Langevin there was no dispute unsettled in connection with the half-breeds of the North-west. I give you these facts in answer to the statement made by Mr. Laurier in regard to surveys (cheers.) Then came the only other question about which there was any difficulty, and that was the question of scrip. I dare say that Mr. Laurier here, I know he did in Toronto, referred to the petitions of His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface, the Bishop of St. Rupert's Land and the Protestant Bishop of Saskatchewan, and stated that the Government persistently refused to regard those petitions. What are the facts? They asked that the half-breeds might be treated as the half-breeds of Manitoba; but although they differed as to the best method, every one of these authorities advised that scrip should not be given to the half-breeds. (Mr. White read the letter of the Archbishop, in which his Grace recommended the survey of a large tract of land for the half-breeds, to be untaxable and inalienable for three generations.) We could not, however, have taken that plan without interfering with other recommendations made. The Bishop of Saskatchewan said that the plan pursued in Manitoba had not been such as to justify a repetition of it in the North-west Territories. Speaking of scrip, he said it would end in disastrous failure. He recommended that the Government should give the half-breeds assistance in getting and settling on their lands. The Government have always done that (cheers.) The Bishop of St. Rupert's Land and the North-west Council said it would be inadvisable to set apart lands or give them negotiable scrip. So you see every one of these important authorities, against whom Mr. Laurier would have you believe the Government acted, differed as to the best method of settling the matter. The Government could hardly follow His Grace's plan, although having the greatest respect for his opinion, and recognizing also that no man knows the half-breeds better or has a kindlier feeling towards them; yet, having regard for the future