

negotiations, and which I forwarded to you and commended to the favorable consideration to the Government."

It seems to me, therefore, that the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Laurier) was in error when he made the statement that very few petitions had reached the late Administration prior to 1878. We find that almost at the last moment, before the Conservative Government left office, in the fall of 1873, the first complaint came in. Of course the Administration had not time to do it justice. We find from 1874, and subsequently, repeated representations were made to the late Administration, and they took five years to consider them, and did not even then declare a policy. The hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Laurier) complains that the present Administration has done nothing. We shall see what they have done. In the first place, they passed the statute of 1879. The following powers were given to the Governor in Council.

"To satisfy any claims existing in connection with the extinguishment of the Indian title preferred by half-breeds resident in the North-West Territories, outside of the limits of Manitoba, on the 15th day of July, 1870, by granting land to such persons to such extent and on such terms and conditions as may be deemed expedient;

"To investigate and adjust claims preferred to Dominion lands situate outside of the Province of Manitoba, alleged to have been taken up and settled on previous to 15th July, 1870, and to grant to persons satisfactorily establishing undisturbed occupation of any such lands, prior to and being by themselves or their servants, tenants or agents, or those through whom they claim in actual, peaceable possession thereof, at the said date, so much land in connection with and in satisfaction of such claims as may be considered fair and reasonable."

Evidently the Government acted upon the recommendation of Governor Laird. Governor Laird, in his despatch accompanying the petition of the half-breeds of St. Laurent recommended the Government to adopt some policy. They did not do so. But, immediately on the present Government obtaining power, they adopted a policy, which was to recommend the claim of the half-breeds to the Indian title. It will be remembered also, that the half-breeds complained that they did not have a magistrate who spoke and understood French. In the fall of 1882, Mr Rouleau, stipendiary magistrate residing at Aylmer, Province of Quebec, was appointed stipendiary magistrate for the district of Saskatchewan, where the French Canadian and French half-breed population was mainly to be found, and this officer became a member of the council, making two French members altogether, Mr. Breland and Mr. Rouleau, out of six appointed by the Government. About the same time, the construction of the Canadian Pacific had opened new fields to immigration. Towns and villages were erected along its line from Brandon westward. A large number of people flew into the towns and rural districts, and form to-day a white population of about 40,000 or 50,000, some say 100,000 or more, who became entitled to representation in the council. Electoral districts have been constituted under the Act of 1875, and have been represented in the council, where they are to-day in majority over the nominees of the Crown. Eight districts have representation in the new council: Edmonton, Broadview, Qu-Appelle, Regina, Moose Jaw, Lorne, Calgary and Moose Mountain, and with the three stipendiary magistrates, and these nominated by the Government, form 14 members. This fact induced the *Edmonton Bulletin*, of the 30th January, 1885, to say:

"Every paper in the North-West gave a kick to the Council, but it is the fault of the people, who elect the majority of them."

One of the first duties of the Government under the terms of the Manitoba Act of 1870, was to extinguish the Indian title to the Territory of the North-West. The policy of the country has been to do this by a treaty, whereby the Indians cede their rights to the land in consideration of a certain indemnity which the Government agrees to pay to them. The Indians under treaty in Manitoba and the North-West represent a population of 33,959. The treaties are seven in number, and contain about the same agreements and stipulations:

		Population.
3rd August, 1871,	Chippewas and Crees, Treaty No. 1	3,395
21st " 1871,	" " " "	895
3rd October, 1873,	Sauteux " " "	2,805
15th September, 1874,	" and Crees (Qu'Appelle) Treaty No. 4	7,079
20th " 1875,	" " (Lake Winnipeg) "	5,315
23rd August, 1876,	Plain and Wood Crees (Fort Carlton and Pitt) Treaty No. 6	8,157
22nd May, 1877,	Blackfeet, Treaty No. 7	6,873

As an example, let us look at Treaty No. 7. It contains a cession from the Indians to the Crown of territory which is described, and "all their rights, titles and privileges whatsoever to the lands" of said Territory. The Indians reserve to themselves the right of hunting throughout the tract surrendered, subject to such regulations as the Government of the country may make from time to time, and saving such tracts of land as may be required or taken up from time to time for settlement, mining, trading or other purposes, by the Government of Canada or by any citizen duly authorised therefor by said Government. The treaty provides for a reserve of land, which is also described, and is sufficiently large to allow one square mile for each family of five. In settlement of past claims the treaty provides for the payment of a sum of \$12 to each man, woman and child. The price of the Indian title payable to the Indians at suitable places and dates, and annually to each chief \$25, each minor chief or councillor \$15, and to every Indian, of whatever age, \$5. A sum of \$2,000 is to be expended every year in the purchase of ammunition or some other purpose, as the Indians and Government may determine. Every head chief, minor chief, chief and councillor, is entitled every three years to a suitable suit of clothing. Each head and minor chief is to receive, for the use of their bands, once for all, ten axes, five handsaws, five augers, one grindstone and the necessary files and whetstones. Every family of five persons and under is to receive the following cattle for raising stock, two cows; family of more than five and less than ten persons, three cows; family over ten persons, four cows; every head and minor chief, for his band, one bull. If any band desire to cultivate the soil as well as raise stock, each family of such band shall receive one cow less; and in lieu thereof, when settled on their reserves and prepared to break up the soil, two hoes, one spade, one scythe, and two hay forks; and for every three families, one plough and one harrow; and for each band, enough potatoes, barley, oats and wheat to place other land actually broken up. All the said articles to be given once for all for the encouragement of the practice of agriculture among the Indians. Each head chief and minor chief and Stony chief is to receive a Winchester rifle. And finally, the Indians undertake to conduct and behave themselves as good and loyal subjects of Her Majesty. These are the stipulations generally inserted in treaties with Indians. Treat No. 7, however, signed in 1877 with the Blackfeet, is the only one which provides for the supply of Winchester rifles, a provision greatly to be regretted, introduced by hon. gentlemen opposite, which did its work of destruction among our troops during the recent battles. Treaty No. 6 and other treaties with the Plain and Woods Crees contains the undertaking, on the part of the Government, to grant, during the three years after two or more of the reserves shall be set apart to the Indians, a sum of one thousand dollars yearly, to be employed in the purchase of provisions for the use of the Indians as are actually engaged in cultivating the soil, and to assist them in such cultivation. A medicine chest is also to be kept by the Indian agent for the use of the Indians, the necessity of which is fully demonstrated by the report of the Mounted Police for 1884. It will be conceded that these Indian treaties are most liberal, and they do not comprise the numerous presents which had to be made as preliminaries before even talking of the terms of the treaties. *Le Metis*, of the 24th July, 1872, speaking of one of the treaties with the Sautaux, says: