



A STEAMER IS PRESSED INTO REQUISITION ON THE RARE OCCASIONS WHEN SUCH A CHANCE OFFERS

two hundred and forty acres of the best land they could find in the homestead and pre-emption area of Western Canada, to become the owners of it by virtue of a Crown grant, absolutely free and without price or penalty, and without any settlement duties to perform. Such land sells, every day in the week, over the counters of the land companies and in the land departments of the railways, for as high as twelve and fifteen dollars an acre.

Sandy's was a typical case. He had applied for his scrip the year before. The buyer who had been on the spot at the time, had assisted him in the matter of obtaining birth certificates and other red tape details necessary for establishing his claim to the satisfaction of the department of the government which has such matters in hand. Sandy, grateful for the assistance so generously rendered, had without hesitation promised to turn it over to his friend in need at the then current price, \$250. Two hundred and fifty dollars looked like a big sum to Sandy. He had probably never seen so much money at once in his life. Besides, his

friend was willing to advance him a few dollars to help him through the winter, and Sandy was not blessed with over much of this world's goods; indeed, he was probably on the books of "The Company" for

goods already advanced, and his line of credit would thus be naturally somewhat impaired.

So Sandy had promised; he had even gone so far as to put that promise in writing, although, Sandy being an honest man, that was quite unnecessary. Everything had occurred according to schedule. He had received a hundred dollars or so from the buyer, on the strength of his prospects. He had passed the winter in comfort, and was correspondingly grateful. The commissioner had that day handed him his scrip, and to his wife and sister also, one certificate each.

And then the trouble had begun. Another buyer was on the scene, telling him how little the first man had really done for him, and how he was being



SOME HALFBREEDS ARE NOT AT ALL ENAMORED OF THE SCRIP IDEA. THE MAN IN THE LIGHT COAT PREFERRED TO TAKE TREATY WITH HIS INDIAN RELATIVES AT A LOSS OF A COMFORTABLE INCOME FOR LIFE