

was opened about the year 1842, in the time of Governor Finlayson. This register contained the entries of 1542 River Lots, and is now in the possession of the Hudson's Bay Company at Winnipeg.

Copies of Register B. were made for the Federal Government by the late Col. W. N. Kennedy and Frank Clarke, Esq. since 1870.

So much for the public books at present. We shall refer to them again.

After Sir George Simpson's death in 1860, there was no one in Assiniboia who could grant certificates for land to the retired servants of the Hudson's Bay Company.

And any sales or transfers of the lands mentioned in Register B. were attended to by Mr. John H. McTavish from 1860 to the year 1870.

However, the death of Sir George Simpson in 1860, caused a new departure for a short time in the administration of the lands in Assiniboia. The Hudson's Bay Company could sell no lands as they had parted with that right in 1811. What ^{then} was ~~to~~ to be done for those who wanted lands outside of those mentioned in Register B.? Bishop Tache came to the rescue. In February 1860, Bishop Tache introduced a Homestead Law in the Government of Assiniboia, of which Government he was a member, and under this homestead law, many settlers took lands, and were protected in their right to them during the ten years that preceded the transfer of Rupert's Land, the North West Territories and the District of Assiniboia to Canada. A copy of this Homestead Law was placed on file in the Department of the Secretary of State by the late Governor Morris.

A NATIONAL BLUNDER.

On the 8th August, 1868, the fol-

lowing letter was sent from Downing Street, to the Governor General of Canada, Lord Monck:

"My Lord,—

I have the honor to transmit to you, for your Lordship's information, the enclosed copy of an act of Parliament, conferring powers for the surrender to Her Majesty by the Hudson's Bay Company of their territories and privileges.

In pursuance of the powers conferred by this Act of Parliament, I purpose to enter into negotiations with the Hudson's Bay Company as to the terms on which they will surrender their rights, and I shall not fail to keep your Lordship informed of the course of such negotiations."

The Act referred to is the Rupert's Land Act.

To which letter Lord Monck replied by cablegram, as follows:—

Quebec, 9th, Sept. 1868.

"Privy Council wish to send a delegation to London: to take part in treaty with Hudson's Bay Company. They are anxious that negotiations with company should be postponed till arrival of delegates in London. Please inform me by cable how soon you will be able to receive them. They are prepared to go immediately."

MONCK.

Colonial Office, 11th Sept., 1868

Delegates to advise with me on the arrangements between the Crown and the Company should start at once. I have appointment with Governor of Company for 18th, but will now conclude nothing until delegation shall have arrived."

BUCKINGHAM & CHANDOS

Quebec, 22nd September, 1868.

"Delegates intend to sail from hence October 3rd. They trust nothing will be concluded until their arrival in England, where they will be due about the thirteenth."

MONCK.