

In the petition presented by Pere Leduc and Mr. Maloney, the settlers ask treatment similar to that which has been granted the settlers in Manitoba, and also at Prince Albert in the Northwest. This treatment had been granted to the settlers on the South Saskatchewan in the river lot survey of the parish of St. Laurent. Some considerable delay in granting entry occurred owing to One Arrow's Indian reserve coming so close to the river that many of the lots could not have their two miles, which the settlers insisted on having. To this the consent of the Indians had first to be obtained and the necessary change in the survey effected and the plans prepared, so that it was not till November, 1884, that the office was in a position to grant entry. Along the South Saskatchewan, outside the parish of St. Laurent, prior to the survey, there were only fifteen families settled, and they extended along sixty miles of the banks of the river (counting both banks.) The contention that the expense of a survey into river lots of that area should have been made to suit that number of settlers is absurd. Further, there is yet no evidence to show that such a survey was desired, in fact the actions of the majority would indicate the contrary. Every one of them could have obtained entry by a quarter or half of a half-section, covering all their improvements, without interfering with the claims of others. The lists show who those fifteen were. In March, 1884, I instructed Mr. George Duck (the plan of the parish of St. Laurent having just been received, the change in the survey of the Indian reserve, however, not being effected until the following November), to proceed to that parish to take evidence in support of those claims there, and all others above and below the same. He engaged the service of the Rev. Pere Andre to assist him in explaining to these people the object of his visit; he obtained applications from nearly all the claimants, from the upper part of the settlement down to the south limit of township 45, range 1, west third. In this township, owing to a bend in the river, there were several disputed claims, which at the time could only be arranged by making a traverse of the improvements, which is now being done. If, at the time of survey, these claimants in said portion of township 45 had furnished the surveyors

with the information necessary to adjust their claims, they could have been settled as soon as this township was open for entry, viz., September, 1881; but since then, through transfers and settlement by others thereon, they have become very complicated. If, at any time since then, these parties in said portion of township 15, had united and furnished the department by means of survey, with the information necessary, the whole matter might have been arranged and entry granted long since. Below that point the settlers had taken up their claims in such a way that, with the information on the township map, the river keeping across the entire lands claimed in an almost due easterly course, it was not deemed necessary to visit them on the ground to adjust the claims; these parties, it was thought, would be able to state, on application at the office, what lands were claimed by them. Many, although notified to make their applications for entry, refused to do so, in some cases purposely leaving their houses when visited for that purpose, and acting in this manner although urged by their priests and others to do as requested. The information and evidence obtained by Mr. Duck having reached Winnipeg in June shortly after I had started for Edmonton and Battleford to investigate and adjust the squatters' claims in those localities your predecessor deemed it advisable they should not be acted upon by the land board in my absence. On my return to Winnipeg, late in the autumn, they were taken up, and the necessary recommendations made; and between the 27th February and the 6th March, 1885, all the claimants were

NOTIFIED TO COME FORWARD AND MAKE ENTRY;

and those who were entitled to patent having resided on their claims three years, were informed that, upon their applying for patent, the same would issue without delay. Only one entry has since been made, and that was by the Rev. Pere Moulin, on behalf of the corporation of the Revs. Peres Oblats. For convenience the lists have been divided into three classes, and I trust that the information contained in such lists of claimants before referred to, and the remarks thereon, will be found sufficiently full and ex-