

of the Hudson's Bay Company, whether in fee-simple or freehold or less than freehold. The one-tenth of Lord Selkirk's Estate was set apart for us by a deed under the license and authority of the Hudson's Bay Company in 1811.

One word regarding the Manitoba Act. The Manitoba Act was passed in the Federal House of Commons on the 12th May, 1870—just two months and three days before this country was transferred to Canada. Doubts existed as to the validity of the Act—and so in order to set the matter at rest, the British House of Commons passed an Act on the 29th of June, 1871, which gave the required validity to the Manitoba Act.

And one word as to the transfer of this country to Canada.

By Order of the Imperial Privy Council at the Court of Windsor on the 23rd June, 1870, it was declared that Rupert's Land and the North West Territories should become part of Canada, on the 15th July, 1870. Accordingly on the 15th July, 1870, this country became part of the Dominion of Canada.

4. At Ottawa, on the 23rd of May, 1890, I submitted in writing a large number of claims including the retired servants claim, to the Minister of the Interior, which were afterwards discussed by us, at three interviews Mr. Burgess being also present. In dealing with the claims, I wrote the Minister as follows:—

"The several modes of acquiring lands before the transfer were:—

1. By purchase from Lord Selkirk.
2. By grants from the one-tenth part of Lord Selkirk's Estate, reserved for that purpose by the deed of 1811.
3. By purchase from Chief Peguis.
4. By the Homestead Law of Assiniboia.

Lord Selkirk's titles to lands on the Red and Assiniboine Rivers are in our possession and also maps of his property."

At the end of the third day the Minister informed me that the Department would consider the claims more fully and give a reply in writing. I then left Ottawa and on the 11th June, 1890, I received a letter from the Deputy Minister of the Interior in which he wrote as follows regarding the Manitoba Act:—

"All modes of acquiring lands before the transfer mentioned in your letter would appear to be covered by the provisions of the Manitoba Act, except purchases from the Indian Chief Peguis."

Have we anything to show that Sir George Simpson, Attorney for the Selkirk executors ever gave retired servants of the Hudson's Bay Company free grants of land in the Selkirk Estate?

Yes. We still have a few of Sir George Simpson's Certificates for lands given gratuitously to retired servants of the Hudson's Bay Company. But besides the certificates that we hold, the writer has to say that when he was Deputy Registrar for the County of Lisgar, it was his privilege to examine applications made for patents by old residents and in many instances the settler produced a certificate for lands that had been given by Sir George Simpson, free of charge, and this certificate was sent to Ottawa along with the application for a patent from the Crown.

The late Thomas Sinclair, Esq., Registrar for Lisgar and also the late Colonel W. N. Kennedy, Registrar for Selkirk, have handled several of the certificates of Sir George Simpson in the same way. These certificates should be on file in the