

"Q. The prisoner claimed a certain indemnity from the Federal Government, didn't he? A. When the prisoner made his claim, I was there with another gentleman, and he asked from the Government \$100,000. We thought that was exorbitant, and the prisoner said, "wait a little, I will take at once \$35,000 cash."

"Q. And on that condition the prisoner was to leave the country if the Government gave him \$35,000? A. Yes! that was the condition he put."

"Q. When was this? A. This was on the 23rd December, 1884.

"Q. There was also another interview between you and the prisoner? A. There has been about 20 interviews between us.

"Q. He was always after you to ask you to use your influence with the Federal Government to obtain an indemnity? A. The first time he spoke of it was on the 12th December, he had never spoken a word of it before, and on the 23rd December he spoke about it again.

"Q. He talked about it very frequently? A. On these two occasions only.

"Q. That was his great occupation? A. Yes, at those times.

"Q. Is it not true that the prisoner told you that he himself was the Half-Breed question? A. He did not say so in express terms, but he conveyed that idea, he said, if I am satisfied the Half-Breeds will be. I must explain this. This objection was made to him that even if the Government granted him \$35,000 the Half-Breed question would remain the same, and he said, in answer to that, if I am satisfied the Half-Breeds will be.

"Q. Is it not a fact he told you he would even accept a less sum than \$35,000? A. Yes, he said, "use all the influence you can: you may not get all that, but get all you can, and if you get less we will see."

And yet this is the man who is landed throughout the Province of Quebec as a hero-martyr, whose name has become an important factor in the politics of the Dominion, and through whose execution, Mr. Blake and his party hope to ride into power. The facts stated in these pages show that so far from there having been any justification for the rebellion, there was nothing even to palliate it. It was a wanton outbreak, provoked for the meanest of objects, the hope of pecuniary gain, by a man who has justly expiated his crimes on the gallows. And the fair-minded, loyal people of Canada may be depended upon to see that the Government will not suffer because it did its manifest duty in allowing the law to take its course in his case.

In brief then the facts connected with North-West administration are as follow:

1. Petitions were sent as far back as 1873, which were ignored during the five years of the Reform administration.
2. In 1876, Mr. Mills telegraphed Mr.

Ryan to investigate half-breed claims, but peremptorily refused to permit him to take the necessary steps to make the investigation of any value.

3. In 1878, nothing having been done in the meantime, Mr. Mills refused to extend Mr. Ryan's commission, stating that he had matter under consideration and would probably appoint the local land agent for the Saskatchewan district to make the enquiries.

4. During Mr. Mills' term of office, petitions were sent by Bishop Grandin and others, asking aid in different forms for half-breed settlers, all of which were rejected.

5. After the present Government came in, petitions were sent in, asking that settlers in advance of survey should (a) have their lands at price ruling when they went on the land; (b) should be allowed time spent and improvements made in advance of survey, in estimating claim for patent; (c) should be confirmed in their holding, even when it turned out, after survey, that they had squatted on odd sections, or on school or Hudson Bay Company's lands. Each of these requests was promptly granted in 1881 and 1882.

6. Requests for surveys on the river lot principle, when made by settlers in advance of survey, were always granted and surveyors instructed accordingly. Requests for re-surveys from persons who settled after survey were properly refused, but in these cases, settlers were offered their land by legal subdivisions, which gave them practically the river lot system, and the land agent was sent to inform them of this and to urge them to make their entries.

7. As to the matter of scrip, all the leading authorities of the North-West, Archbishop Taché, the Bishops of Rupert's Land and Saskatchewan and the North-West Council, advised that scrip should not be granted. But finally, on the 28th January, two months before the outbreak occurred, Government yielded to the requests of the half-breeds themselves, and authorized by Order-in-Council, the appointment of a commission to make the enumeration asked for with a view to the issue of scrip.

8. No half-breed was ever deprived by the action, or inaction of the Government of an acre of land upon which he had settled, or to which he had even colorable claim by virtue of settlement.