

dispossessed of a single foot to which he was rightfully entitled to lay claim by any action or inaction of this Government. And, more than that, the Government has never in these cases stopped to enquire whether the land was taken for speculative purposes or not (cheers). So, if we may judge of the views of the Minister (Mr. Mills) by the action of his agent, our Government has carried out the same policy, yet we are charged with wrong doing and neglect because we have gone far beyond what Hon. David Mills intended to do (laughter). You will remember that Mr. Laurier told you that petition after petition was sent in from the half-breeds complaining of their grievances, and that our Government turned a deaf ear to all of them. Now, let me point out a few facts. These petitions began to come in to the Government just before Sir John went out of power. The first was in 1873, setting forth the claims of the half-breeds for compensation for the extinguishment of the Indian title. Then in 1875 Rev. Father Grandin sent in an elaborate petition, making an extensive series of demands on behalf of the half-breeds. That was in 1875. The subjects referred to in it were important only on this ground, that they were the same as were contained in many other petitions, and were refused. What are the facts? Everything Father Grandin asked was refused by Hon. David Mills in an elaborate paper, except \$300 for the building of schools, a grant that was passed by the Government while Sir John was the head of it (loud cheers). Then, there was the petition of Gabriel Dumont, of whom Mr. Laurier spoke so much to the people of London, and to whom he extolled so eloquently the patriotism and loyalty of this Dumont—the man who tried to set up a provisional form of Government, with himself as leader, in the North-west. (The regulations passed by the Reform Government were then referred to.) The petitions from the half-breeds asked that their rights to the lands should date from the time of their settlement; that the price should be confirmed not at what it was at the time of entry, but what it was when they first went on the land as squatters, and that all improvements made before the survey should be allowed for. This was in 1881. Dumont's petition came in to our Government in 1883. What are the facts? Every one of these concessions asked for had been already granted by the Government before Dumont's petition was received (loud cheers). The first was on the 27th of November, 1881, and the second on the 14th of June, 1882, and the last in October, 1882. So, you see, that the last thing they had asked for had been allowed to them before Dumont's petition came in. I ask what you can think of men who will say the Government denied all these people's requests when the records under their hands, if they had chosen to look, would have shown that the Government granted everything that was asked? (Cheers.) Then I come to the survey of land which Mr. Laurier dealt with. He said the Government persistently refused these people their survey. They did nothing of the kind (cheers). The policy of the Mackenzie Government was followed by Sir John A. Macdonald in this respect. In the Act of Parliament relating to the North-west Territories, there was a clause permitting a different kind of survey where the people desired; that if the surveyor went into an unsurveyed portion of the territory, where people were already upon the land, the surveys could be made on the river lot plan, if it was so desired. If, however, they went into a part of the country where there was no settlement, they were to survey in accordance with the general plan, on the rectangular principle. You will agree with me that that was a fair way to proceed (cheers). There was, however, one particular parish, and the petitions had relation to that. It was St. Louis de Langevin, in which the people, having settled after survey, asked that the Government should send up surveyors to re-survey the land. These people had been in the country before the survey, but not in this particular parish. This parish is on the south bank of the Saskatchewan; while they were principally on the north bank. When the survey was made there were but two settlers—Moses Bremner and one Bouchet—and neither asked for the survey on the river lot principle. That is the record as it is in the Surveyor General's office. The surveyor, therefore, went on the rectangular principle, and afterwards these people came across the river and demanded that a re-survey should be made. The Government did refuse to do that, they refuse it now, and they will refuse it (applause). For this reason: That it would not be right nor sound public policy to lay down the doctrine that people coming into the country, and not liking the manner of survey, could ask a privilege which was only applicable to those who had been there previous to survey (hear, hear). If the half breed who was not born on the soil could do it, any body of white settlers could do it as well. They could say on going in there, Give us a different form of survey or we will take up our muskets and make it hot for you. To permit anything of that kind would be to render all government and regulations

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