

land except at the expiration of three years from the day of his entry in the land office. The land might have been occupied for 20 years, improvements far in excess of those required by law might have been made, valuable improvements and valuable erections might have been made, and yet the settler, though living on the land for a period far in excess of the period required by law was not entitled to get his patent. I say this absurd order was not the fault of the settler. It was the fault of the Government; it was the fault of the Department of the Interior. These men remained upon their land, many of them, from 1876 down to 1881, when the office was opened. Some of them remain on their land up to this hour. But up to 1884, not one of these white settlers in the Prince Albert district could obtain from the Government a patent for the land. The incomprehensible policy which ruled the Department, the vacillating and uncertain action of the Minister, the changing and wholly inconsistent orders that issued from the Department, puzzled the agent at Prince Albert, and worried, harassed, and annoyed the actual settlers. In 1882, those outraged and aggrieved settlers petitioned the Government and complained that the land office was not opened at Prince Albert until the middle of 1881 and on that account entries could not be made; that a large number of settlers had located lands then surveyed; that these settlers had been then living on and cultivating these lands for years before the office opened; that they could not get their claims as settlers recognised and could not get their patents for 3 years after 1881 and praying for redress. They got no redress. For years their claims were treated with indifference and contempt by the Government of this country. On the 27th February, 1883, the agent at Prince Albert again drew the attention of the Government to the fact that these settlers could not get their patents owing to the notice of the 29th November, 1879, that settlement prior to entry did not count. Mr. Pearce, the land inspector, who appears to have been making some investigation on the subject, on the 12th September, 1883, presented a report to Mr. Walsh, the Chief Land Commissioner for the North-West, and in that report he states that there were about 300 settlers at Prince Albert whose occupation was prior to the opening of the land office, that these men could not get their titles on account of the notice of the 29th November, 1879, and he recommends that their claims should be recognised. He also pointed out that it was of the greatest possible importance to the settlers of that district, and in fact to the Government, to the peace and prosperity of the country, that these claims should be recognised. This report was transmitted to the Minister of the Interior by Mr. Walsh, on the 12th September, 1883, so that, at that early period, the Government had abundant notice of these claims. That they had this notice is manifest because, on the 18th October, 1883, the Secretary of the Department acknowledged the receipt of the letter and intimated that the notice of the 29th November, 1879, was all wrong, that the settlers were misled, and that on proof of settlement they were entitled to the issue of their patents. But nothing was done. The Government never moved or took the first step except to give that intimation. That the Government had abundant notice of these grievances of the early settlers at Prince Albert is shown by the fact that, on the 3rd October, 1881, the *Saskatchewan Herald* called the attention of the Government to those grievances. On the 8th October, 1881, a meeting of the settlers was held in which resolutions were passed setting forth the grievances, and these resolutions were transmitted to the Government. On the 9th October, 1883, the North-West Council complained that titles to land occupied over three years by actual settlers were not recognised by the Government. On the 21st January, 1884, a meeting of the settlers of Prince Albert was held to discuss the grievances. A petition was

signed at that meeting and handed to Mr. Pearce, and was no doubt sent by him to the Government. In February, 1884, a meeting of settlers was held at Colleston's School House, and the proceedings were transmitted to the Government. But again I say that, through the incomprehensible policy which has guided the Department of the Interior, the claims of these white settlers were practically ignored. A correspondent of the *Montreal Gazette*, dealing with this subject says:

"The parties who have been on the lands for years have been unable, it is said to procure patents, and speculators and others who have given fees to persons who have influence have obtained deeds, and in many cases taken the lands over the heads of the first settlers, who had improved them for 15 or 18 years, and that was the real cause of the trouble."

My hon. friend from West Durham, pointed out as a typical case the case of Mr. Thomas Miller. It is a case of gross hardship. I think, if that is a typical case, one of 300, one need not be surprised if difficulty, uneasiness, dissatisfaction, turbulence and ultimately something more than turbulence did occur. I do not propose to discuss this point, because my hon. friend has referred to it at length so that the House understands it. Now, Sir, the *Mail* newspaper declared, not very long ago, that people do not take up arms without cause, that there must be some cause for an armed insurrection. People do not complain without cause; and you know, Mr. Speaker, in the words of a great French statesman, that whenever the people complain, the people are always in the right. Now, Sir, the fact that the people of the North-West Territories have been persistently, for the last seven or eight years, complaining of the inaction of this Government with reference to their condition proves pretty conclusively that the people of the North-West Territories have ground of complaint, and that those complaints are not of recent origin. I say that you cannot, upon the spur of the moment, in an instant of time, induce an intelligent class of settlers in any country to become turbulent, rebellious, and ultimately to take up arms against the constituted authorities. Now, we find that just about the time of the outbreak in the North-West Territories, the white settlers in the Calgary district, a district which is a very considerable distance from the scene of the late unfortunate disaster, held a public meeting complaining of the inaction of the Government of Canada in dealing with the complaints of the settlers. That meeting was held at the house of John Glen, eight miles from Calgary, and at that meeting an association was formed, called:

"The Alberta Rights Association, with the following as officers:—President, Samuel Livingstone; Vice-President, John Glenn; Secretary, S. W. Shaw. It was decided to demand from the Government the immediate settlement of land claims, the granting of representation, and the allowance of half-breed claims. The following telegram was sent to Sir John A. Macdonald:

"A meeting of settlers of this district was held to-day, at John Glen's. The meeting was called by private invitation. At such meeting the following resolution was passed unanimously: 'That whereas a number of townships about Calgary are not open for settlement which are now largely settled, and many of the settlers have resided on such lands over three years, and have made more than sufficient improvements to entitle them to patents, and have made repeated demands at the land office for entry, which has been refused; and, whereas leases cover a large tract of land, near Calgary, fit for settlement, and a number of settlers have settled on these leases; and, whereas a number of leases have been granted, and no cattle or sheep were put on them; and whereas it is absolutely necessary that this country be represented at Ottawa, without delay, as we are now governed by agents who are interested in misgoverning this country; and, whereas settlers cannot bring cattle in without paying duty, and leaseholders can do so without tax; be it resolved, that in the opinion of this meeting, it is necessary that all the townships about Calgary be immediately thrown open for homesteads and settlement, and that parties who have complied with the terms of the Dominion Lands Act as to residence and improvements have their patents granted immediately, and that all leases, the terms and conditions of which have not been complied with, be cancelled, and the land thrown open for homestead entry; and that all the lands suitable for agricultural purposes or leases now granted be thrown open for entry and settlement; also that the settlers importing cattle into the country be put on the same footing as leaseholders, and also, that this meeting regrets that the Bill introduced to give representation to the North-West Territory in the Dominion Parliament has been defeated, and would strongly impress upon the Government the absolute necessity of a Government measure being introduced and passed this present Session, having that object in view as the only means of quieting the present discontent among the settlers in the Territories, and of properly governing them, and that the Government, without taking a census, has sufficient information to warrant a measure for representation, and this meeting would press immediate action in this regard to prevent a repetition of the trouble which now unhappily exists in these Territories; and