

it was reprinted in the *Western Law Times of Canada*, I pursued my investigations, aiming particularly to substantiate the conclusions drawn by the reproduction of such original documents as were, in my opinion, necessary to support them.

No one who has not searched \* for comparatively old documents in a new country can appreciate the difficulties to be overcome; especially in the face of such a destruction of public records as has occurred at Red River, first, by the iniquitous act of the Governor of Assiniboia in 1822; second, by the burning of the house of the Roman Catholic Bishop of St. Boniface, with all its archives, in 1861; and, third, by the Half-Breeds during the occupation of Fort Garry by Louis Riel in the Red River Rebellion of 1869-70.

The history of the lands of a people is necessarily to a very great extent the history of the people itself, so, in dealing with the lands of Red River I have given, not only the various classes of settlers who came to Assiniboia, but, as far as possible, their names and the actual allotments they occupied. With this end in view was prepared, not a little laboriously, a complete index to all the grantees of lands at Red River from the earliest times to 1870, the year of the transfer of Rupert's Land to Canada. This index also gives the numbers of the lots they occupied, thus enabling the descendants of any settler to ascertain accurately the lands granted to him.

It has been my aim, in discussing the legal questions which frequently arise, to do so in a popular manner as far as possible, and the illustrations have been added as a further means by which to bring the work within the range of the general reader, as well as that of the historical and legal student.

In the Appendix will be found collected all the documents, many for the first time printed, which will be of practical

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\* *Vide* pp. 32, 68, 71.