

of the North-West council, and I remember that, when it was mentioned that we had to deal with the extinction of the buffalo, with the small-pox, then raging among certain tribes, with the administration of justice in these Territories we were uniformly, at every turn, met with this answer from Governor Morris, who was then the President: "No funds." It was, unfortunately, the period of deficits, and these gentlemen had no funds for any of these purposes. They could form a North-West council to direct them how to deal with affairs, but, when it came to practice, the uniform answer was that they had no funds, and it was the same when the question of surveys was pressed upon their attention. When the Premier said that a blank existed with regard to the administration of North-West affairs from 1873 to 1878, I would have been glad to agree with him, but I must say that, from the very start, the half-breeds were totally ignored as having distinct rights and privileges, in fact, as having any distinct existence, by the Government of hon. gentlemen opposite. The Premier stated, the other night, I think properly, that the leader of the Opposition had abstained carefully from stating his opinion upon the intrinsic merit of the claims of the half-breed population of the North-West. I believe the leader of the Opposition was very right, because, if he had stated that they had rights, he would have logically stated that they had grievances, but he did not state whether they had rights or not, and where there are no rights there are no grievances. In 1873 Bishop Grandin wrote to the Government of Mr. Mackenzie. In 1874 he wrote upon the same question and urged the attention of the Government to the claims of that population. In 1875, again, the same prelate, with all the authority and with all the benevolence he felt for his people, and with the care and anxiety which he felt for the good government of those Territories and their contentment, with the Canadian rule, wrote again to the Government, and spoke of the excitement and uneasiness that was felt then, and which had existed for four or five years among the half-breed people of those Territories. In 1876 Major Walsh, then an officer of that Government, wrote again about the disputed land claims in Prince Albert and St. Laurent. In 1877 Governor Laird transmitted his letters. That forms the whole docket, the whole record of the doings of hon. gentlemen opposite, with what I have stated and with what has been stated, so far, by the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Girouard), and hon. members of this House who have addressed you on the same subject. It is well known that in 1878 there was no allotment; from 1870, when the acquisition of that Territory took place, there had been no allotment on the reserve made for the French-speaking parishes. On the 16th March Mr. Mills, then Minister of the Interior, wrote:

"It is perfectly unnecessary to look up parties who may have claims upon the Government. Let them come forward and state their claims."

That was in keeping with the declaration of the said gentleman, that he would make no distinction between white men and Indians, thereby setting at naught the provisions which had been inserted in the Manitoba Act of 1870. Now, respecting the conduct of the Administration towards the settlers, I will quote some remarks of Mr. Schultz, then one of the members of this House, on the 20th April, 1878:

"Mr. SCHULTZ said that it was quite evident, from the discussion in the Senate, that there existed a strong feeling to these stake claims, and in reference to such grievances he must call attention to a peculiar class of them existing in the parishes of St. Clements and St. Peter, in Manitoba. He had occasion to speak of these before, and had assisted in giving all sorts of data and evidence. No action had been taken, and no hope, apparently, of a speedy settlement, while the greatest inconvenience was experienced by the occupants of these lands. In the neighborhood of the Stone Fort, also, there was a number of quarter-sections sold to Stephens and others, in Montreal, and given to the Hudson Bay Company, which were in the hay-poundage belt, and which, consequently, belonged to the people in that district who owned the river farms, and if the Government desired the good opinion of that section, these matters must be looked into and redressed, and at once.

As regard the amendments to the Disputed Claims Act, he very much regretted that if that Act needed amendment, why had not the necessity been discovered a year ago, and was surprised that the commissioner appointed under that Act should have drawn his pay to the last moment, and only then repented that the Act was unworkable. Too much time by far had been lost in that way, and, apparently, in every other way in the Province. In fact, a fatality seemed to attend all Manitoba matters in connection with land matters. The blocks taken by parishes, and notably that of St. Andrews, had not been preserved intact, but had been altered to suit the convenience of the Department. The issue of scrip had been delayed till all benefit from it had passed away, and the continued delay in the distribution of the minors, land was an injustice to all parties concerned, and was too palpable to need comment. Session after Session, he had spoken of these matters, and would now make a last appeal. He had been often promised the attention of the Government to these matters, and he trusted that these promises would be fulfilled, and believed that in view of these long and grievous delays, and the peaceful and quiet way in which the people had borne them, that the Government would be only performing a just and graceful act were they to remit the payment of the seed grain which they had received."

Not only were the half-breeds ignored by the Government of the hon. gentlemen opposite, but in the organisation of the North-West council no representation was given to them. Also, in 1874, the Government withdrew from sale and settlement all lands for 24 miles on each side of the Canadian Pacific Railway; and in 1875 they withdrew the lands for 35 miles on each side of the telegraph lines. In 1877 a change was made; there was no homestead, and all land was to be sold at \$1 an acre. In the same year the hon. gentleman introduced his famous Bill for colonisation railways, under which anybody who wanted to build a railway could get an appropriation of 10,000 acres per mile, as subsidy. All this has been done by the Administration of hon. gentlemen opposite, between 1873 and 1878. The hon. gentleman for West Durham (Mr. Blake) is of the same opinion as his colleague. He says that he does not acknowledge any special rights to the old population of the Territories. He seems to ignore their existence altogether, and during the régime of hon. gentlemen opposite there were interferences with Manitoba in every way. They sowed the seeds of permanent disorder. Their action in Ontario, with regard to the troubles that had taken place in Manitoba in 1870, had the effect of discouraging emigration altogether to the North-West. And, Sir, they signally failed in their attempts to build a railway from ocean to ocean, in order the better to develop that country. Now, I must say that to vote in favor of the motion that is in your hands, I would have to ignore all the facts of the past. It would be ignoring the history of the last twenty-five years; it would be ignoring the teaching and lessons, that the people of Canada and both political parties in the Dominion are bound to obtain from the occurrences and facts which I have stated, very imperfectly, perhaps, but certainly as accurately as it was in my power to do. The present Government, under the distinguished leadership of the First Minister, has accomplished such a work in connection with the North-West during the last eight or ten years that history affords no parallel to it in any country in the world. With a population of 4,000,000, a mere colony, we have acquired a country larger than the United States. Isolated, as it is, being 500 miles from the rest of the world, yet we have organised a Government and established one Province. The First Minister has made treaties with the Indians and established law and order there by means of a territorial government. And we have built a railway connecting ocean with ocean, and we have done that despite our limited financial resources. It has been accomplished by a Government that has been the means of bringing into the North-West 150,000 immigrants, a Government that has arranged Indian treaties and undertaken the management of our Indian population; a Government that has established in the Dominion institutions of permanency and solidity that has been shown in the last events that have taken place in connection with the North-West troubles. I say, under such circumstances, there can be no doubt as to how members of this House should cast their votes on this