

sufficient now; and he had to ask hon. members of the Government from time to time, what was going to be done to put an end to this painful position of affairs. A great deal had been promised, but he was sorry to say nothing had been done. He was aware there were many difficulties to contend against, but he thought that sufficient time had been given for the settlement of these difficulties. He would say a word or two about the grant made to the half-breeds. They knew that Canada was obliged to give them that grant, but at the same time they could not but feel uneasy that so long a time had elapsed without anything having been done. It was neither fair for the old nor for the new settlers. Property would certainly be sold more easily if these difficulties were settled, while under the present state of things every sale was accompanied by some loss of money; for no one would risk any great improvements on a property, or any large expenditure where there was no title. He hoped this would be the last year he should have occasion to direct the attention of the Government to their position. There were many other grievances of which he would like to speak, but the question of the lands was the most grievous, and he would not say anything in respect to the others. He concluded by hoping that if not before many days, at least immediately after the session, a measure would be taken to give them that justice upon which they have been waiting so long.

HON. MR. SCOTT begged to assure his hon. friend that the Minister of the Interior, who had charge of this duty, was most anxious to carry it out as fairly and as liberally as possible. Difficulties, however, which it was unnecessary for him to discuss, had arisen. In regard to the first question, as to when patents would be issued, he was informed that they would be issued as speedily as possible. In reference to the second, which touched on the rights of cutting hay, they also were in course of settlement; he believed many had been already arranged, indeed all except those which required additional information and fuller surveys. There was no intention or desire on the part of the Government to delay, but it was

necessary to proceed with due caution where there were so many different claims. With regard to the third question, the grants of land to the children of half-breeds, he was advised that they could not be prepared till certain claims had been adjudicated upon. They had been for some time in the hands of the Minister of Justice, and the distribution of lands would be proceeded with at an early date.

HON. MR. GIRARD said the question which he had now to put was a continuation of the first. It was as follows:—Why the Act 36 Victoria, Chapter 6, passed with a view to smoothing difficulties and saving expense with respect to those lands, had not been put into execution? He had asked the same question last year. Immense services were expected from the operation of that law. He had been told that it would be put in operation immediately, very likely before his arrival in Manitoba, but he had gone and had come back again, and yet nothing had been done, and he would like to know what was the insurmountable obstacle that existed now, but which did not appear to exist then.

MR. SCOTT replied that it was found to be entirely too expensive and cumbersome, and an Act was to be submitted this session to enable some one to go into the country and adjudicate on the cases. This had been done simply with the view of gaining dispatch. Had the judge of the higher courts disposed of the case it would have cost a great deal, and serious delay would also have ensued.

HON. MR. GIRARD said that it was understood that the court would be presided over by one of the judges and by two citizens of the country at the same time; that either a justice of the peace or some one occupying a similar position would assist the judge. An auxiliary would be wanted, however the matter were arranged. It was highly desirable that some one, a native of the country, should assist the judge, for the questions at issue were not any of those of law, but arose out of the manners and customs of the country. The Act 36 Victoria provides for that, and he considered it a very wise measure on that account.