

of the discussion; but it will be as well to consider what the white settlers were demanding. Meetings were held, not only at Prince Albert, but all over the North-West Territory. There was a meeting of the inhabitants of the Province of Alberta. I find the resolutions published in *Le Manitoba*. I have not been able to get an English copy, so I will translate them. It will be sufficient to mention the pretended grievances, the articles of the Bill of Rights of the white settlers of Alberta, to show that most of them are unfounded:

"The undersigned have the honor to represent that questions of the greatest importance, and worthy of the special attention of the Government, arise from that portion of the North-West, and more particularly from the district of Alberta. The undersigned hope that the Government will give all these questions the most serious consideration:

"1. There is not sufficient police stipendiary magistrates in the North-West; the judicial districts are too large, and, consequently, do not provide sufficient tribunals. This evil has been increased by the fact that under the Act respecting the North-West Territories cases appealed must be laid before the sitting judge, and decided by the same judge."

Suppose there were not enough stipendiary magistrates, the Government have this Session introduced a Bill to give an additional magistrate to the North-West.

"2. The people are of the opinion that you must remove from the officers of the Mounted Police every judicial power, and that resident judges shall be named for all the principal towns and cities in the North-West."

That is more as regards the administration of justice than is provided for the older Provinces—a judge resident in every principal centre of the North-West Territory. I do not believe that the people of the older Provinces would be willing that we should tax ourselves in order to concede this extraordinary demand, and have a judge resident in every principal centre of the North-West Territory.

"3. We know that it has been decided that the stipendiary magistrates have no power to issue a writ of *habeas corpus*, and, therefore, in this district we are deprived of one of the greatest safeguards of British liberty."

I am sure that whoever drew up this Bill of Rights of the population of the Province of Alberta was not a lawyer. Whether there is a statute declaring that a writ of *habeas corpus* may be issued in the North-West Territories or not—I believe there is one, but suppose there is not—by the common law of England every British subject deprived of his liberty on British soil has a right to a writ of *habeas corpus*. That is too elementary a principle of law to be open to any doubt.

"4. In cases of intoxicating liquors, the fact of one-half of the penalty being given to the informer has a bad effect. A man may be imprisoned on the oath of that sole informant, and this state of things has been the cause of numerous and grave acts of injustice. There have been many perjuries committed in this respect. This abuse exists among the constables of the Mounted Police, as one of them had made two hundred dollars in a day as informer—one-half of the penalty imposed on two persons. However, the defence denied to the accusation brought against them by the informer, and the two were condemned, although respectable.

"5. The police have abused their right to make inquisition as to the use of liquor; and no police officer should have the right to enter a private house for the purpose of ascertaining whether there are intoxicating liquors in it or not, unless there has been a sworn information previously made to that effect."

Well, this law is based upon the principle of penalty laws in the old Provinces. In all the old Provinces the policy of this Government, sanctioned for years and years, has been that one-half of the penalty, even in cases brought for the infraction of the liquor laws, should go to the informer, and the other half should go to the Crown.

"6. The stealing of horses is very common here, and there is very little effort made to pursue the guilty parties. The thieves go south by McLeod's road, and there the police cannot reach them before they go to the United States. A telegraphic line, as far as Fort McLeod, would prevent a good deal of the stealing of horses, and would also be of great use to the Mounted Police."

The telegraph line has been built since that time.

"7. The settlers of the neighboring districts are asking for their patents, and they complain when they would make their homestead

entries for townships 23 and 24, range 1, west of the 5th principal meridian, and in these districts there are a large number of settlers. The natural consequence is that the neighboring country is *in statu quo*, and will remain in that condition as long as these townships are not open to settlers."

These lands were surveyed only last year, and, necessarily, a few months must elapse before the land office is ready for entry, but I believe it is ready now.

"8. We believe that a court of appeal should be established in the North-West Territories, and that an extension of the powers of the court of first resort, held by the stipendiary magistrates, should be made, and more facility given for appeals from the magistrate's to the court of appeals in all cases where the contract exceeds \$200."

Now, here is another demand which is unreasonable. Under the constitution of the North-West, passed in 1875, a court of appeals was established for the North-West Territories, not sitting in the North-West Territories, but sitting in Winnipeg. There is a court of appeal for Manitoba, and with a view of saving expense, considering the large amount which the country had to spend in developing that vast country, this Parliament thought proper to give the right of appeal, in cases in the North-West Territories, to the court of appeals of Manitoba; and in every case where there is a question affecting real estate, or in any case for damages or torts for \$500, or in all cases in which there is \$1,000 in dispute, there is appeal to the court at Winnipeg. Considering that the means of communication are so easy to-day, from every portion of the North-West Territories, and especially from Calgary, from which this complaint comes, it seems to me that this complaint is without foundation.

"9. In the interests of justice, we believe that a prison and court house ought to be erected in Calgary. The building now used as a prison is altogether unfit for that purpose, and there is no place for the detention of criminals. Furthermore, we have been informed that the North-West council has refused to pass ordinances to arrest any one about to leave the country, and that because there is no jail, in order to detain the fleeing debtor or criminal. Last year the building which served as a prison was almost constantly full of prisoners, and as Calgary is the centre of the district, and near the Rockies, where the works of the Canadian Pacific Railway are proceeding, and where mining is being pursued with activity, the construction of a prison is an immediate want. In Calgary, also, there is need for a court house building, wherein to hold the sittings of the court."

There is also a jail and court house built by the Government at Regina, the capital of the North-West Territories. Under the constitution of the North-West council, the council has the right to order the erection of any prison which may be required in any portion of any district; and if the people of Calgary want a jail they should build one themselves, and ask the council for the proper authority.

"10. We also demand that the settlers should have the right to cut hay upon the lands which they occupy, and unoccupied lands, without being subject to pay \$1 a ton. The cutting can only improve the quality; and if it is not cut it will be entirely lost. This payment of \$1 per ton, although a small payment, has been a burden for the poor settlers, and is the source of a very small revenue for the Government."

Now, if we look at the regulations of the Department regarding the cutting of hay, it is very plain that this charge or due cannot be a burden for the poor settler. This article of the bill of grievances is altogether untrue; the Government do not charge \$1 a ton for cutting hay. According to the regulations, they charge, for any amount up to 20 tons, 10 cents per ton; for from 20 to 50 tons, 25 cents per ton; for from 50 to 100 tons, 50 cents per ton; and for 100 tons and over, \$1 per ton. Besides that, every settler is allowed to take all the hay he wants for his own use free. To show that this grievance has really no foundation whatever, let us look at the report for 1884. The amount collected by the Department for all the hay permits in the North-West during the year, amounted to the large sum of \$120,200.

"11. We demand the liberty to cut large quantities of wood, because to-day we cannot get enough in order to build even a good stable, and a settler who has no considerable resources is unable to procure one."

These are the regulations of the Department for cutting wood: