

who are elected by the people to represent them. That is my earnest desire in connection with the Northwest council. (Applause.) I do not wish that anything which I say should be considered as reflecting on that body, for whom I have the highest possible respect. Let me, however, review the action of the Northwest council. In August, 1878, there had been a petition presented to them by a number of people of the Northwest—half-breeds chiefly—in relation to a number of subjects, and the council made a representation to the Governor-General in council setting forth what should be done for those half-breeds. The half-breeds themselves claimed that there should be territory set aside for them exclusively to the extent of 150 miles long, along the international boundary line and 50 miles deep. This is somewhat the same, though not so extravagant, as the demands made by Riel for the half-breeds. Here was the answer of the Northwest Council to this demand, dated August 2nd, 1878 and embodied in a memorial to the Governor-General in Council:—

"1. That it would be injudicious to set apart reserves of land for the half-breeds of the Northwest Territories, or give them negotiable scrip.

"2. That in view, however, of the fact that grants of land or issues of scrip were made to the half-breeds of Manitoba towards the extinguishment of the Indian title to the lands of that Province, there will undoubtedly be general dissatisfaction among the half-breeds of the said Territories unless they receive some like consideration.

"3. That this consideration would most tend to the advantage of the half-breeds were it given in the form of a non-transferable location ticket for, say, one hundred and sixty acres to each half-breed head of a family and each half-breed child of parents resident in the said Territories at the time of the transfer thereof to Canada, the ticket to be issued immediately to any half-breed eighteen years of age or over, on furnishing evidence of claim, and to every child on arriving at that age, and furnishing the necessary evidence.

"4. That each half-breed holding such a location ticket should be allowed to locate it upon any unoccupied Dominion lands, but the title of the land so entered should remain in the Crown for ten years; and if, at the expiration of three years after such entry the half-breed locatee have made no improvement on the land, his claim thereto shall be subject to forfeiture.

"5. To induce those half-breeds who now procure their livelihood by hunting on the plains to abandon their present mode of life and settle on their locations, by which course it alone appears possible to arrest the great destitution with which they are threatened, owing to the imminent early extinction of the buffalo, that aid in agricultural implements and seeds be allowed them for three years, but

only once for each family that may settle within that time.

"6. That half-breeds who have shared in the Manitoba distribution of lands and scrip should not be entitled to receive location tickets in the Territories, though now resident therein.

I have shown you that Mr. Mills had already refused to give them seed or farm implements. Now, gentlemen, in 1883 the Northwest council sent in another petition to the Dominion Government in which they referred to a number of matters connected with the Northwest, and in the course of the memorial occurs the following: "Your memorialists further pray that those half-breeds in the territories, who have not participated in the arrangement to extinguish the half-breed claims in Manitoba, should enjoy the same rights as accorded to the half-breeds in that province." I am not wrong in saying that that simple reference in a report which covers two closely printed pages of the returns brought down to Parliament, must be interpreted in the light of the more elaborate suggestions made by the council in their previous representation; and what were those proposals? Why, gentlemen, it was proposed by the Northwest council that those half-breeds who had claims upon the Government, that those people who had rights, were actually to be treated worse than if they had no Indian title and took up land in the ordinary way. Any man

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can get 160 acres of land as a homestead, and if he settles on it and performs the ordinary settlement duties within three years, he will then get his title to it. The magnificent and magnanimous suggestion of the Northwest council, which now ventures to censure the Government for not acceding to their suggestions, was that a half-breed should get 160 acres, and if he did not perform his duty within three years the land should be forfeited; if he did perform his duties as any white settler, he was not to have his patent for ten years—seven years longer than in the case of a white settler. (Hear, hear.) Archbishop Tache, who has always taken the most kindly interest in the welfare of the half-breeds, and who has devoted himself with great energy to the promotion of their welfare recommended that the half-breeds should get their lands but they should be inalienable for three generations. While the Northwest council suggested that the half-breeds

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