

mortgaged nor taxed before they should have passed through the hands of, at least, the third generation of those who received them, or of their representatives. I say at least, because I am strongly inclined to believe that it is desirable that such lands be entirely unalienable; and such an idea cannot seem unreasonable to those who consider the advantages deriving from a similar policy with regard to real and unalienable estates of noblemen. Raise the half-breeds to the condition of landlords; you will thereby confer a real benefit on them, and we will not see a repetition of the regrettable occurrence which took place in Manitoba. The only traffic of land which I would like to see allowed would be the exchange of a full lot for another full lot between the half-breeds, even it should be in different reserves. That would be no encouragement to speculators, but great facility to the half-breeds, especially when they marry."

And he concluded in this manner, which should have commended itself at once to the consideration of the Government:

"It is desirable that the half-breed question should be settled without any further delay. The required legislation ought to be passed in the coming session of the Legislature. Immediately after, inspectors ought to be appointed, and I would particularly recommend Mr. Angus McKay as one of the inspectors."

Such were the views expressed by Archbishop Taché. It must be admitted that upon anything which affected the condition of the half-breeds no one could speak with greater authority. The plan he proposed was not adopted by the Government. Of this I make no complaint at this time. Upon this it is not my province at this moment to offer any comment. I neither praise nor blame the Government for that now; but the fact for which the Government are blameable and are to be arraigned before the people of the country is that, while their attention was called in 1879 to this matter, for six long years they remained idle and did nothing towards the solution of this question. They asked for the views of others. What in the world did they ask them for, when, having had those views, they put them in the pigeon-holes and did nothing to solve the question upon which they asked for them? The neglect of the Government upon this question is all the more unpardonable, in view of the fact that all the parties whose views they had asked for had told them that it was expedient and necessary to give immediate attention to this matter. Colonel Dennis had begged the early attention of the Minister of the Interior and the Government to that question. Bishop Taché had told them it was of paramount importance to give satisfaction to the half-breeds, to treat them with justice and fairness, to impress them with the view that the Government were to do all they should do; and yet, in the face of all that, the Government for six long years did not act at all. It is obvious, it does not require any argument to establish that it was of paramount necessity not only that the Government should act, but that they should act at once upon this matter; and the necessity was enforced, it was made still more apparent, by the earnestness with which the statement of that question and of all other questions affecting the half-breeds was pressed upon them, not only by the half-breeds themselves, but by the North-West Council, by the settlers, by the missionaries, by the officials, by everybody almost who took an interest at all in the North-West. In the month of May, 1880, Charles McKay and sixteen others petitioned the Government upon this matter. They represented that some of them belonged to Manitoba at the time the census was taken, but that they were absent at the time of the enumeration, and they asked to be placed upon the same footing as the others, and to have scrip issued to them; they pointed out that the North-West half-breeds were entitled to the same treatment as the Manitoba half-breeds, and they asked for the early issue of a commission; they also made some other demands. In the same month Octave Majeau and others from Edmonton petitioned the Government and made the same demands. In September, 1881, Antoine Lapierre, from the Qu'Appelle district, petitioned the Government and demanded the same treatment for the

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half-breeds of the North-West Territory as had been granted to the half-breeds of Manitoba. In August, 1882, John Simpson and forty-two others petitioned the Government, complaining of the treatment they had received from the Ontario and Qu'Appelle Land Company. On the 4th September, 1882, Gabriel Dumont and others from the Saskatchewan River petitioned the Government, representing that they were newly established on the lands, and asking for a survey and the issue of a commission. On the 9th November, 1883, William Bremner and thirty-two others, also from the Saskatchewan River, petitioned the Government, their chief complaint being about surveys. On the 13th January, 1882, Mr. Richardson, whose name is now well known in connection with the North-West, also gave his advice to the Government and in this manner:

"Dear Colonel DENNIS.—Having passed three years in the North-West, and during that period seen a good deal of the half-breed population, the following, induced by the remarks of the Right Hon. the Premier in my presence, last Saturday, may not be out of place, the subject of dealing with the half-breed element of the North West being, as I then gathered, intended for early discussion. These half-breeds claim and insist that as a distinct class they have a share in the Indian title to the lands outside of Manitoba, which has not been extinguished, and, as such distinct class, entitled equally with the half-breeds of Manitoba, to special consideration. That grounds exist for such contention appears by reference to the Statutes of Canada, 1870, chapter 3, section 31. Admitting these half-breeds might (as some few have, but now regret) joined in the Indian treaties, I am convinced that such a contingency is not probable, but that, if requested, they would reject the offer; besides, I do not think their joining in the Indian treaties would be in the public interest, but decidedly the opposite. How best to deal with the element, has, as you are aware, been considered, and you already hold my views on the subject. I may, however, be permitted to express the opinion, that opportunities now present themselves for removing the dissatisfaction existing among these people, and securing their goodwill towards the Government, because, 1st, their former occupation as hunters is gone; 2nd, they are, as a class, destitute. A further reason for urging, as I respectfully do, early action is that they are scattered among the Indians, and latterly subjected to the evil influences of leading spirits of the Manitoba troubles of 1870, who, during the past season, have been traversing the country, doing at least 'no good.'"

On the 6th June, 1881, Mr. Lawrence Clark, a member of the North-West Council, brought before the Council the question of the non-enumerated Manitoba half-breeds, and he did it in this language:

"The undersigned has the honor to represent, for the consideration of Your Honor, the Lieutenant Governor in Council:

"That there are resident within the North-West Territory, in various settlements, but more particularly, so far as the personal knowledge of the undersigned extends, about Edmonton, Carlton, Duck Lake, St. Laurent, Prince Albert and Qu'Appelle, a number of half-breeds who were residents in what is now a Province of Manitoba, at, and before the 15th day of July, 1870, but who, in the interval between this date and the distribution of scrip and lands especially provided in the terms of transfer, have removed from their residence, and are now living in the North-West Territory.

"That the undersigned, from such information as he has been able to collect, is quite convinced the total number of the above described class of half-breeds is not large, and that proof of their claims has long since, in the majority of cases, been taken by Mr. Ryan, before his commission lapsed, or since by the local land agent and that the proof for some time back has been in the possession of the Department of the Interior at Ottawa.

"That these half-breeds, in many instances were not aware of the sittings of the commissioners in Manitoba, being limited in point of time, and in nearly every instance, even had they been aware of such being the case, were not possessed of means to bear the expense consequent upon attendance thereat.

"That the general feeling of the community is that these half-breeds, possessing even rights with those who have already received scrip for lands in Manitoba, have not had the measure of justice meted out to them to which by the terms of surrender they were entitled.

"The undersigned considers the subject as one of considerable importance, very desirable for the peace, welfare and good government of that territory, and should be taken and adjusted by the Dominion Government with as little further delay as possible."

On the following day the same gentleman brought before the Council the question of the half-breeds resident in the territories, and he did it in this language:

"That the half-breeds have already been recognised as possessing rights in the same soil, subject to which the Dominion accepted the transfer of the territories, and while ample provision has been made