

white population of that country. I will not read the instances I gave last year, the cases of Mr. Miller and others. They are but instances of hundreds in that country of the extraordinary delay which occurred and of the total absence of capacity on the part of the officers of the Department to comprehend the grievances that the people undertook to bring before them. For the purpose of showing the extent to which the administrative work of the Department has fallen behind the actual settlement of the country, I will first give the number of acres homesteaded since 1878. They were as follows:—

	Acres.
1878	308,640
1879	555,296
1880	280,640
1881	438,707
1882	1,181,853
1883	970,719
1884	533,280

Now, when a homesteader is in occupation for three years he is entitled to his patent, and the following shows the number of acres patented from 1881 to 1884:—

	Acres.
1881	38,514
1882	63,997
1883	292,715
1884	288,365

So that the area patented by the Department, is less than 20 per cent. of the lands for which patents ought to have been issued. I need not detain the House further in the discussion of this question. I stated a very few instances of the neglect, mismanagement and delay which the Government had exhibited in the conduct of the affairs of the North-West, and I beg leave to move the following motion:—

That in the administration of the affairs of the North-West, under the present Ministry, prior to the rebellion, there were grave instances of neglect, delay, mismanagement and misconduct, which were prejudicial to the public welfare, produced serious discontent among the people and retarded the development of the country.

Mr. WHITE (Cardwell). I do not propose to attempt to follow the hon. gentleman in the speech he has just made. The subject, on which he has spoken briefly and fairly, is one that has been pretty well threshed out during this Session and last Session, and it is not necessary to go over the old ground again. There are one or two clear statements, however, which I think it worth while to make. The hon. gentleman has said that we have gone on with the surveys too rapidly. I do not think that can be regarded as an impediment to the development or settlement of the country. When the hon. gentleman speaks of the number of acres of land which have been granted by the Crown, and which he says have been so small as to render unnecessary the survey of so large an area, he ought to remember that we have granted very large areas to railway corporations. For instance, 25,000,000 acres were granted to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company; and it was absolutely necessary, in order that that company might settle its lands, and in order that the alternate sections might be opened to ordinary homesteaders, that they should be surveyed. It was also necessary that the lands of the other railway companies should be surveyed for the same reason. Up to the beginning of the present Session there were granted to railway companies, including the 25,000,000 acres granted to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, very nearly 40,000,000 acres in the North-West, involving surveys. But, looking at the manner in which the surveys have been carried on by the two Governments, I find one fact, which is of considerable importance, that is, whereas it cost hon. gentlemen opposite to survey the country \$12.14 per acre, it has cost the present Government \$4.65 per acre; so that if we have made very large surveys, we have at least made them economically, and I believe carefully and well. Then, the hon. gentleman has spoken

of the general cost of administration as compared with the revenues of the North-West Territories. All I can say is that while hon. gentlemen opposite were in power their expenditure for administration and the collection of revenue, &c., was \$34,226.80 more than they received, whereas, while this Government have been in office, the total expenditures have been but 22 per cent. of the receipts. I think that shows that the administration on the whole has not been an ill-administration. Then, the hon. gentleman says we have been negligent in the issue of patents. All I can say is that while hon. gentlemen opposite were in office they issued 6,577 patents, whereas the present Government have issued 19,317. If there is any one thing more than any other about which there is no complaint in the North-West to-day, it is the issue of patents, which are issued much more promptly than they are in any Province of the Dominion or than they are in the United States. That is one branch of the Department against which no valid objections can possibly be made. Then, Sir, the hon. gentleman has referred to the position of the half-breeds at Qu'Appelle. I may say, from information which I have in my hand—and it comes from an exceedingly good source—that the half-breeds at Qu'Appelle claimed no hay lands, for the very good reason that there were none at that place. I may say, with reference to the system of surveys there, that the river system would have been impossible, owing to the conformation of the country and the character of the river. The lands were not handed over to any colonisation company. No half-breed in that section had settled outside the Canadian Pacific Railway belt. The lands in question were sold by the Canadian Pacific Railway to the Ontario and Qu'Appelle Land Company; and in every case where a half-breed was settled on a syndicate section, and the fact was established that he had settled prior to the granting of the Canadian Pacific Railway charter, the half-breed got his land. The half-breeds contended that they should have a full homestead. By reason of the broken front on the lake and river, they were not able to get it; but the Government afterwards made up the full quantity to them where they were not able to get the full quantity by the system of survey that was adopted. As I said, I do not propose to follow the hon. gentleman in all that he has said, but I take this occasion, which I regret has not offered earlier, to call attention to a statement made in the public press of the country. In addressing the House on a former occasion, I read certain affidavits which were obtained from settlers in the somewhat famous township of St. Louis de Languevin; and the statement has been made by a correspondent of the *Toronto Globe*, who visited the locality, that those affidavits were obtained by force, by threats, by ignorance on the part of those who made them of their contents; and serious attacks have been made against Mr. Pearce—an officer who was in the service of the Department while the hon. gentleman sat on this side of the House as well as since that time, and who, whatever may be said of his manner, is certainly a man of integrity, honesty of purpose and an able administrator—for having, as alleged, forced those unfortunate people to make those affidavits. When I saw that statement in the *Toronto Globe*, I took what I think every hon. member will say was the proper course. I referred it at once to Mr. Pearce for his answer. I felt very keenly the suggestion that any officer of the Department of the Interior would undertake to force people, whether half-breeds or others, to do that which is not only a great impropriety, but a great sin, that is to swear to what is not true. I felt, therefore, that it was due to Mr. Pearce to get from him his explanation. Now, I will read Mr. Pearce's answer, which is as follows:—

"OTTAWA, 29th April, 1886.

"Sir,—I notice in the *Toronto Globe* of the 28th instant, a report from its correspondent dated at Regina, the 27th instant, purporting to be the result of an enquiry made by him into the position of settlers in the now