

and turbulent. On the 21st, 23rd and 24th June, 1884; and on the 22nd and 28th July, 1884, the *Times* discussed fully the condition of the Indians and pointed out their restless and discontented condition, and that danger might be apprehended. On the 2nd August, 1884, the *Edmonton Bulletin* also drew the attention of the Government to the condition of the Indians. On the 4th August, 1884, the *Times* declared that the half-breeds complained and not without cause. In September, 1884, the Bill of Rights embracing the claims of the half-breeds, was adopted at a public meeting of the half-breeds held at St. Laurent, and was transmitted to the Government. On the 21st of August, 1884, Sergeant Brooks writes to the officer commanding the North-West Mounted Police at Battleford:

"That Riel and Big Bear held a conference at Prince Albert a few days before this."

His letter was duly transmitted to Ottawa. On the 17th September, 1884, Sergt. Keenan wrote to the officer commanding the North-West Mounted Police at Battleford:

- "1. That on the 5th September, 1884, a meeting of half-breeds was held at St. Laurent.
- "2. That all the half-breeds in the surrounding settlement were there;
- "3. That the meeting was called to carry on the work and condemn the Government;
- "4. That Riel told him that the Ottawa Government had offered him seat in the North West Council or in the Dominion Senate."

On the 2nd October, 1884, this letter was transmitted by Captain Crozier to the controller of the police force at Ottawa. On the 26th September, 1884, Sergeant Keenan wrote to Captain Crozier at Battleford:

- "1. That Riel was holding frequent meetings among the half-breeds;
- "2. That at these meetings Riel's utterances were careful and cautious;
- "3. That at the private meetings of his committees very different language was used and different measures advocated;
- "4. That Charles Nolin, one of Riel's councillors, proposed that the half-breeds should make certain demands on the Government and that if these demands were not complied with they would take up arms once, and kill every white man they could find and incite the Indians to do the same."

On the 30th October, 1884, Captain Crozier wrote to the officer commanding the North-West Mounted Police at Regina:

"That Riel was drilling his men at St. Laurent and that a large meeting was held there at midnight on the 12th October, 1884.

This was sent to the Government at Ottawa. On the 31st December, 1884, Inspector Howe wrote to Captain Crozier:

"On the 9th December, 1884, there was a large meeting of the half-breeds held at St. Laurent for the purpose of again talking over the Bill of rights; that Riel proposed to McDowall, a member of the North-West Council, that he would leave the country if he got \$5,000."

This letter was transmitted to the Government at Ottawa. On the 2nd December, 1884, Superintendent Gagnon wrote to Crozier:

"That in the month of November, 1884, several meetings of half-breeds were held at St. Laurent and Batoche, at which petitions were prepared and signed by the half-breeds and sent to Ottawa, insisting on their Bill of rights."

On the 10th March, 1885, a telegram was sent from the police force at Regina to the Controller at Ottawa:

"Half-breeds excited. Move about more than usual. Preparing arms. Do not know cause or object of these preparations."

On the 11th March, 1885, Crozier telegraphs:

"Half-breeds greatly excited. Reported that they threaten attack on Carlton before 16th. Half-breeds to take freight or employment from the Government. Will stop all freight coming into the country after 16th of this month. Getting arms ready. Leader will not allow people to leave home, as they may be required."

In the Mounted Police reports brought down on 23rd June, 1885, Col. Irvine reports that the Blackfeet, Pi-a-Pot's Band, the Man-that-took-the-Coat's Band and Dry Lodges Band, were turbulent and hard to manage. That the Indians broke into the supply store; that 20 Mounted Police went to arrest the offenders; that they could not do it; that Pi-a-Pot's and other bands had to be overcome, and only succeeded in doing it with 57 Mounted Police and a 7-pounder. That horses were stolen and men killed, and that several of the bands were on the war-path. The reports of Department of Indian Affairs and Mounted Police from 1879 to Mr. CAMERON (Huron).

1885 are teeming with these uninvestigated grievances, these unredressed wrongs, the complaints of the half-breeds and Indians, the uneasy, dissatisfied condition of half-breeds and Indians, their threatening and dangerous attitude. And yet we are told that there were no grievances uninvestigated, no wrongs unredressed, no complaints and no causes of complaints, that the settlers, the half-breeds and the Indians were satisfied. The Government had abundant notice of the grievances of the half-breeds in the North-West. They had abundant notice of the complaints and grievances of white settlers in the North-West. Those notices were sent to them over and over again. They were repeated month after month, and year after year, as is manifested from the papers submitted to Parliament, to which the hon. member for West Durham has referred. I will not, therefore, repeat them, but I will only say this, that the hon. gentleman has on more than one occasion drawn the attention of the Government to the unsatisfactory condition of affairs in the North-West. I have pointed out over and over again to the Government that their policy of procrastination, of delay, of not promptly dealing with wrongs complained of would be fatal to the peace, progress and prosperity of the North-West and would ultimately end in bloodshed. The Government appeared to be wholly indifferent. In order to remedy some of the grievances, I introduced a Bill in this House giving settlers in the North-West Territories representation in the Parliament of Canada; and I failed in that respect. I say again, that the papers submitted to Parliament contain the clearest possible indications of the discontent existing in the North-West. I propose to give one or two short extracts from newspapers to indicate this condition of affairs. The *Saskatchewan Herald* on October 31st says:—

"That Little Poplar came from the South (i. e. the United States) in the hope being able to stir up trouble."

The *Mail*, editorially says:

"That dissatisfaction has existed among the half-breeds in the Saskatchewan country for years past is undeniable. They complain, as we have before explained, that while the Metis of Manitoba were given grants of 240 acres under the Act of 1870, their claims have been ignored; and they say, with equal truth, that the Government should at least give them free patents for the farms which they have been cultivating, and compensation for disturbance in cases where the Dominion surveyors may find it necessary to rearrange the shape of their holdings, the old French form of delimitation being at variance with the modern system. These claims the Interior Department is trying to adjust, but it takes time to deal with questions affecting the rights of property."

The *Saskatchewan Herald*, on the 12th July last, tells of the quiet and secret meetings progressing amongst the half-breeds at Duck lake, consequent upon the arrival of Louis Riel there, it says:

"But should Mr. Riel desire to establish a government on the Saskatchewan, he will find many of his former followers in his immediate neighborhood, and no doubt his former secretary, Louis Schmidt, will cheerfully resign the position he now occupies as assistant Dominion lands agent at Prince Arthur, to give his services to the country and his old master."

On January 22nd, the *Qu'Appelle Vidette* editorially made this alarming announcement:

"We are informed that Louis Riel and others are engaged in drafting a petition to the Dominion Government demanding certain concessions which they say have been promised to the half-breeds of the North-West Territories, and it is the expressed intention of the half-breeds of the Saskatchewan district that if these concessions are not granted, which are asked for to resort to arms to force a compliance with their demands, Mr. Vankoughnet's statement to the contrary notwithstanding."

A special correspondent of the *Mail*, writing from Fort Qu'Appelle said:

"The people of Eastern Canada must by this time have a tolerably good idea of the nature of the half-breed grievances. The grievances of the whites have been submitted in the form of resolutions to the North-West Council, and debated by that body; and have been laid before the Ottawa authorities so often, and with such urgency, that the Interior Department must by this time be quite familiar with them."

Of the complaints of whites and half-breeds, he wrote:—

"By far the most serious complaint, however, is based upon the idea that in some way or other the settler 'has no show' with outsiders, who obtain possession of lands which he, as a squatter, has improved and built upon. This, I take it, is the core of all the discontent and dissatisfaction among whites and half-breeds alike."

The *Winnipeg Times* said: