

have a copy, I may add that this register was on file in the Red River Colony before the year 1823. It is most important to have Register "A" or a copy of it placed in the Department of the Interior at Ottawa."

After some further correspondence on the subject, I was informed on the 7th of February, 1900, "that Register 'A' had been transcribed by a member of the staff in the Dominion Lands Office, Winnipeg, and a full copy of all its contents sent to the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, and I have to thank you for the information you have so kindly given on this subject."

And thus it took thirty years from the date of our entry into confederation to be able to place in the hands of the Federal Government at Ottawa the proofs as to our rightful ownership to part of the lands in the District of Assiniboia, commonly known as Lord Selkirk's Estate. What then have we to say as retired servants of the Hudson's Bay Company, and what is the object of our petition to the Parliament of Canada at this time?

Simply this:—That out of the 7,455,552 acres of land reserved for the retired servants of the Hudson's Bay Company under the deed from the Hudson's Bay Company to the Earl of Selkirk on the 12th of June, 1811, and reserved for no other use intent or purpose whatsoever, only about 152,345 acres of land have been granted to said retired servants, leaving a balance of about 7,303,207 acres to be yet distributed among the retired servants and their descendants, and we ask that these lands be now distributed among the retired servants and their descendants and also the present servants of the Hudson's Bay Company and their descendants. It

may not be considered reasonable to attach any blame to the Government of Canada for the serious blunder that was made in the purchase they claim to have made from the stockholders of the Hudson's Bay Company of the 74,555,520 acres of the Selkirk Estate, before examining the title; but now that the proof is before them, we trust that we shall be allowed the lands that so justly belong to us, and we wish to be clearly understood that in the adjustment of our claims, no one who is now a settler in the old District of Assiniboia must be disturbed in his possession or his patent set aside.

Have we any guarantees that the Federal Government is in duty bound to secure this property to us? We have.

1. On the 6th December, 1869, we were assured by the late Queen Victoria's Proclamation issued over this country:—"That all your civil and religious rights and privileges, shall be respected, your properties secured to you."

2. On the 16th of February, 1870, Sir John Young, then Governor General of Canada, instructed his Grace Archbishop Tache to give us the following assurance:—

"All who have complaints to make, or wish to express are called upon to address themselves to me as Her Majesty's Representative and you may state with the utmost confidence that the Imperial Government has no intention of acting otherwise than in perfect good faith towards the people of the North West. In declaring the desire and determination of Her Majesty's Cabinet, you may safely use the terms of the ancient formula, "Right shall be done in all cases."

3. The Manitoba Act guarantees patents to lands that have been granted by the license and authority