

be perpetrated by the troops or police held the people together at Batoche and kept his influence over the people. After the whole fight was over the half-breeds and I for one saw then that all the sayings of Riel were untrue about our families or women being injured or hurt. I after inquired about the 500 men Riel said were coming and I found it to be untrue, that none were coming as he had said and we then saw that we had been deceived by Riel into a trap. This was the only reason we had for taking up arms against the Government. I never saw any other reason, except as stated, to protect our wives and families from outrages, and Riel always told us there that when we took up arms we did so not against the Government but against the police. Riel said the outrages were, that we were to be massacred with our families and our race extinguished, and I am unable to tell half the lies he told us."

Pierre Paranteau, farmer, swears:—

"They told me—Riel told me—that the soldiers were coming to kill our families, and when I got to the church it was full. Riel deceived us. Riel told the people that the soldiers were coming to destroy us, and that was the reason we fought: I am not aware of any other reasons. I am under oath, and I know what I say: we fought only to save our lives and the lives of our families, as Riel told us. Charles Nolin ran away from Duck Lake when the fighting commenced: before that he had been one of the leaders. If we had not been deceived as we were, our men would not have taken arms at all."

It will be seen that these sworn statements of leading half-breeds, give a vastly different history of the Rebellion and of the causes of it, than the stories current upon the opposition platforms and in the opposition press throughout the Dominion.

They might be multiplied almost indefinitely; but the extracts given serve to show the methods which Riel adopted to entrap his simple-minded followers into overt acts of rebellion.

Perhaps the most complete answer to the alleged causes of the rebellion, as set forth in the Opposition press and upon Opposition platforms, is contained in the report of Mr. Pearce, laid before Parliament at its last session, in which he shows that of the 258 settlers at the outbreak in the disturbed districts, 238 had no claims whatever to scrip, having already had their claims extinguished before leaving Manitoba. Mr. Pearce reported as follows:—

"Prince Albert, N.W.T. Dec. 14, 1885.

"Hon. Thomas White, Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, Ont.

"Sir,—In accordance with instructions received from you during your late visit to the Northwest, that I should, during my present visit to this district, collect all possible information regarding the alleged causes of the recent unfortunate outbreak in the Northwest, I have the honor to report as follows. The six alleged causes are the following:—

"1. That the half-breed settlers did not receive patents for their lands through delays, the fault solely of the Government, which rendered it impossible for them to obtain entry for the lands settled upon;

"2. That owing to the system of surveys, these parties were unable to obtain the lands they had settled on and improved prior to survey;

"3. That they were entitled to the same right as had been accorded to the half-breeds of Manitoba;

"4. That the lands on which they had for years resided had been sold over their heads to others, chiefly speculators;

"5. That the timber dues have proved very onerous to them, and were a grave cause of dissatisfaction; and

"6. That the dues for cutting hay on Government lands were also onerous, and a cause of great dissatisfaction.

After giving full details of the investigation and its results, Mr. Pearce summarized and concluded his report as follows:—

"1. This report shows that of all the 258 settlers at the time of the outbreak, not one was unable to obtain patent for his land through the action—or rather non-action—of the Government, and even in March, 1884, there were only ten cases of delay, which delay was caused by the conflicting surveys of One Arrow's reserve and the St. Laurent parish.

"2. That not one man of the 258, or any one else who ever resided in the district, ever lost one inch of land through the system of survey, when such survey was made subsequent to his settlement thereon.

"3. That 92 per cent. of the 258 had no rights as Northwest half-breeds. Of that 92 per cent., those who were half-breeds had participated in all the rights accorded those people in the province of Manitoba.

"4. That not one settler in the district had an acre of land sold over his head to which he had any claim, or had even preferred one.

"5. That the timber dues were not onerous, amounting only to 5 cents per settler per annum.

"6. That the hay permit question never affected them in the remotest degree.

What was the real motive of the leader of the rebellion may be learned from the following testimony of Father André, given at the trial of Riel. It presents the man who is held up by the rouges of Quebec as a hero-martyr, and by the grits of Ontario as one whom it was a crime to have permitted to be hanged, in the light of a mercenary adventurer, attempting to levy black-mail from the Government:—

"Q. I believe, in the month of December, 1874, you had an interview with Riel and Nolin with regard to a certain sum of money which the prisoner claimed from the Federal Government? A. Not with Nolin. Nolin was not present at the interview.

"Q. The prisoner was there? A. Yes.

"Q. Will you please state what the prisoner asked of the Federal Government? A. I had two interviews with the prisoner on that subject.