

No. 5.

REPORT RESPECTING CLAIMS BY HALF-BREEDS.

OTTAWA, 12th January, 1887.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following general report on the investigation which I have made under the powers vested in me by the Order in Council and your letter of instructions, dated respectively the 1st of March and the 17th of May last, of the claims which were preferred before me during the past season, by half-breeds, to participate in the grant of scrip or land authorized by sub-clause E of clause 81 of the Dominion Lands Act, 1883.

I left Winnipeg on the 31st of May last, and returned to that place on the 17th ultimo. During that period, I held sittings of the Commission at the following places, namely:—

Swift Current, Maple Creek, Calgary, Red Deer Crossing, Battle River or Laboucane Settlement, Peace Hills, Edmonton, St. Albert, Victoria, Lac la Biche, Fort Pitt, Battleford, Prince Albert, St. Laurent, Fort Qu'Appelle, and Fort Ellice.

With the assistance of Mr. N. O. Coté, the Secretary of the Commission, and Mr. George Duck, Clerk of the Commission, I have received and investigated 1,414 applications, which are all entered in the registers supplied to me for that purpose (Enclosures "A" and "B").

One thousand one hundred and sixty-four of these applications have been allowed, and out of that number 602 are from half-breeds who withdrew last summer from the Indian treaties to which they formerly belonged. Two hundred and ninety are from persons who never participated in any grants to the Indians, and 267 are by the legal representatives of deceased half-breeds who died at a date subsequent to the 15th day of July, 1870, and who, had they been living, would, themselves, have been entitled to participate in the grant to half-breeds.

I have also included in the above mentioned total number of claims which I have allowed, the claims of three North-West original white settlers, as well as the claims preferred by the legal representatives of two deceased original white settlers. (I was authorized to deal with these claims by Order in Council of the 19th April, 1886.)

I have disallowed altogether forty-four claims, on account of the claimants having been, at the time of the transfer, residents of the United States, or born after that date, and I have reserved the applications of 208 claimants, which I have classified as follows:—

Claims requiring further proof, one hundred and forty-three.

Claims of persons who were residents of the Province of Manitoba on the 15th day of July, 1870, but who have never received land or scrip in the said Province, thirty-one.

Claims of persons who were residing, on the 15th July, 1870, in the territory which has not yet been ceded by the Indians under treaties, twenty-nine.

Claims preferred by the legal representatives of deceased North-West original white settlers requiring further evidence, three.

Attached hereto is a schedule, marked "C," showing in detail the number of claims which were preferred at each place where I have held sittings of the Commission.

I have received further evidence in many cases which were reserved by the Commission of 1885, owing to such evidence not having then been procurable, and to such of those persons as furnished me with the necessary proof in support of their claims, I have given certificates for scrip.

I have also issued certificates to such of the heirs of deceased half-breeds as came before me, whose claims were proved before the Commission in 1885, but who did not then appear to receive their shares as such heirs.

Those half-breeds, 192 in all, from whose scrip certificates a sum equal to the amount they had received under the Indian treaties to which they formerly belonged, was kept by the first Commission, have been granted certificates by me, in accordance with the instructions given me to that effect, as a refund of the amount so deducted.

The total amount of scrip certificates on the several forms, which have been issued by me, is shown by the following statement :—

MONEY SCRIP.

Form A, 1,017.....	\$183,639 00
do B, 789.....	59,810 14
do D, 77.....	18,240 00
1,883	\$261,689 14

LAND SCRIP.

Form C, 8.....	1,920 acres.
do E, 3.....	720 do
11	2,640 do

Although there were 1,894 certificates issued by me, they only represent 1,164 individual claims, and the difference between the number of certificates granted and the number of claims allowed is accounted for in the following manner, that is to say :—

On the Form "A," some 290 certificates were issued as a refund of the small sums which were deducted by the Commission of 1885, from the certificates granted to half-breeds who had received payments in cash, as Indians, equal to the amount so deducted.

The certificates on the Form "B" were all issued to the legal representatives of deceased half-breeds, and in nearly every case of this nature, one individual claim had to be divided amongst eight or ten direct heirs, and, in some instances, one or more of these direct heirs being dead, their share had to be subdivided amongst as many heirs again, making sometimes as many as thirty certificates to be issued for one individual claim of \$160.

The total amount of scrip certificates issued by me, as above, also covers certificates amounting to \$22,844.13 which I have granted, as follows, on applications which were made before the Commission in 1885, but were then reserved for the reasons already stated :—

Refund of Treaty money.....	\$ 8,245 98
Claims with respect to which I have procured the required evidence.....	3,773 32
Legal representatives of deceased half-breeds whose claims were proved in 1885.....	7,780 29
Claims reserved, owing to claimants having participated in the North-West outbreak.....	3,094 54
	\$22,844 13

It will be observed that the majority of claims which have been preferred this year are from Half-breeds who were previously in receipt of annuities as Indians. Apart from the claimants at Peace Hills—twenty-eight in all—who had obtained their discharges from Treaty before my arrival at that place, I am confident, in view

of the great precautions which were taken by Mr. T. P. Wadsworth, Inspector of Indian Agencies, who accompanied the Commission to St. Albert, Victoria, Lac la Ploche, Fort Pitt, Battleford, Prince Albert and St. Laurent, the Indian agents and myself, to ascertain whether or not the applicant for withdrawal would be capable, in the event of his being allowed to leave the treaty, to support himself and family without the assistance of the Government, that no fear need be apprehended that this class of half-breeds who have severed their connection with the Indian Treaties and have been granted scrip, will have to be taken back on the reserves.

I regret that owing to the season being so far advanced, after completing the investigation of claims at Prince Albert and St. Laurent, I was unable to visit Fort à la Corne, The Pas, Cumberland House, Grand Rapids, on the North Saskatchewan, Norway House, Beren's River and Fort Alexander, on Lake Winnipeg, and Manitoba House and Fairford, on Lake Manitoba, at which places, I am informed, many persons have been granted their discharge from Treaty.

In my opinion, it is important, in order to complete the settlement of these claims, that arrangements should be made to have the Commission start out at as early a date as possible next spring, for the purpose of holding sittings at the above mentioned places, excepting Manitoba House, which it is proposed I shall visit during the present month.

In the case of the thirty-one claims already mentioned, which are preferred by persons who were residing in the Province of Manitoba on the 15th July, 1870, in support of which I have received the necessary evidence, but which cannot be allowed without special authority of Council, in consequence of the Order in Council of the 20th of April, 1885, which limited the time for making such applications to the 1st of May, 1886, I beg to recommend, although I am quite satisfied that those who were residing within the original Province of Manitoba at the time the said Order in Council of the 20th of April, 1885, was passed, have been given ample time and facility to submit the evidence in support of their claims, that, in view of the fact that the persons who preferred these thirty-one claims were residing at great distances from Winnipeg at the time of the passing of that Order in Council, and as they have been residents of the ceded portions of the North-West Territories for many years and are still residing therein, the authority of Council be obtained to deal with these cases in the same manner as if they had been presented within the time proscribed by the Order in Council referred to of the 20th of April, 1885.

With regard to the twenty-nine claims already alluded to in this report, which have been preferred by persons who were residents of the unceded portions of the North-West Territories on the 15th day of July, 1870, but who came in to the territory which has since been ceded by the Indians under treaties, some in 1871, and some in 1872, and who have continuously resided therein ever since, I would recommend, in view of the comparatively small number of claims of that class, and of the fact that the claimants have always been and are still residents of the North-West Territories, that the Minister of the Interior obtain from Council authority to deal with the claims in question in a manner similar to that under which were dealt with the claims of persons who were residents on the 15th day of July, 1870, in the territory which the Indians have ceded by treaty.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

R. GOULET,
Half-breed Commissioner.

A. M. BURGESS, Esq.,
Deputy of the Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

SCHEDULE C.
DETAILED Schedule of Claims proffered before the North-West Half-breed Commission, during the Season of 1883.

	Non-Treaty.		Treaty.		Deceased.			O. W. Settlers		Total Claims Allowed.	Reserved.				Disallowed.	Grand Total.	Money Scrip. \$ cts.	Land Scrip. Acres.
	Heads.	Children.	Total.	Heads.	Children.	Total.	Heads.	Children.	Total.		Manitoba.	Unsettled Territory.	Further evidence required.	O. W. Settlers.					Total.
Winnipeg.....	1	3	4	2	1	3	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	2	10	2,180 00	.....
Switz Current.....	6	4	10	1	1	1	1	1	12	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	2,302 66	.....
Maple Creek.....	13	13	4	11	15	1	1	1	29	29	.....	.....	.....	.....	33	6,068 33	240
Calgary.....	1	8	9	12	23	35	9	27	36	80	2	8	4	1	91	14,624 24	240	
Red Deer Crossing.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	1	4	1	6	14	1,007 00	.....
Battle River Settlement.....	3	4	7	1	1	1	1	4	5	13	.....	.....	.....	2	17	4,207 22	240
Peace Hills.....	5	20	25	13	15	28	4	4	10	39	.....	.....	.....	3	41	7,673 09	.....
Edmonton.....	8	15	23	23	47	70	29	82	111	197	1	6	6	3	105	25,559 98	.....
St. Albert.....	1	1	1	4	16	28	2	2	4	25	.....	.....	.....	2	222	50,694 37	240
Victoria.....	26	63	91	38	51	89	10	14	24	201	1	18	9	4	236	42,369 10	.....
Lac La Biche.....	3	13	16	2	6	10	2	1	3	22	.....	.....	.....	2	22	4,683 17	.....
Fort Pitt.....	2	13	15	25	49	74	2	5	7	97	6	8	2	15	115	21,550 22	240	
Battleford.....	11	39	50	16	48	64	3	5	8	119	16	5	5	29	150	26,129 80	1,410	
Prince Albert.....	9	15	24	7	16	23	2	13	15	62	6	1	6	13	81	15,519 47	.....
St. Laurent.....	1	7	8	34	68	100	10	14	24	133	.....	.....	.....	176	27,771 68	.....	
Qu Appelle.....	2	3	5	2	4	6	1	1	1	12	.....	.....	.....	20	20	2,363 83	.....
Fort Ellice.....	1	1	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	38	.....	.....	.....
Regina.....	78	212	290	205	397	603	85	182	267	5	5	143	3	206	4,414	261,689 54	2,640	

* The evidence in these cases was taken by Mr. H. E. Forget, Clerk of the North-West Council, under instructions from the Minister of the Interior.

R. GOULET,
Half-breed Commissioner.

N. OMER CÔTÉ,
Secretary Half-breed Commission.
 OTTAWA, 12th January, 1887.