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on
1247280

HALFBREED COMMISSION.

Report of Commissioner

OTTAWA, March 15th, 1907.

The Hon. Frank Oliver,
Minister of the Interior,
OTTAWA.

Sir:-

I have the honour to report that in pursuance of the commission issued to me under the Order-in-Council of the 20th July, 1906, empowering me to investigate and adjudicate upon the claims to land or scrip arising out of the extinguishment of the Indian title, which might be preferred by the Halfbreeds resident in the territory which is described in the said Order-in-Council as follows:

"All that part of the Province of Saskatchewan which lies North of the 54th parallel of latitude and a small adjoining area of the Province of Alberta."

I heard evidences in 541 claims, at the following places and on the following dates:

Portage la Loche	September 6th & 7th
La Loche Mission	" 10th & 11th.
La Loche River	" 13th
Isle a la Crosse	" 19th to 23th.

Of these claims I allowed 498, on which I issued in the country 271 money scrip certificates, amounting in all to \$88,040, and 227 land scrip



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certificates covering an area of 54,480 acres.

At Portage la Pêche. La Pêche Mission and La Pêche River money scrip were issued to all Halfbreed children under eighteen years, while at Isle a la Pêche money scrip was asked for only those under fifteen.

The certificates so issued may be classified as follows:

Money Scrip. of \$240.

At Portage la Pêche	50	to children under 18 years.
" La Pêche Mission,	49	" " " "
" Isle a la Pêche	<u>172</u>	" " " 15 years.
		<u>371 for \$240 each - \$85,040.</u>

Land Scrip of 240 acres.

At Portage la Pêche	7	to persons of 18 & under 21 yrs.
"	58	" " of 21 yrs. and over.
" La Pêche Mission	6	" " of 18 & under 21 yrs.
"	39	" " of 21 yrs. and over.
" La Pêche River	1	" " 1 person under 21 yrs.
"	2	" " of 21 years & over.
" Isle a la Pêche	18	" " aged 15 & under 18.
"	22	" " 18 " under 21.
"	<u>94</u>	" " 21 and over.

327 for 240 acres each - 54480 acres.

Among the claims which have been allowed, there are 9 which have not been satisfied by an issue of scrip certificates, as the persons entitled thereto did not appear to take delivery thereof. These claims I now hand in.

I also hand in six other claims which I have



but in which the claimants are orphans under 18 years of age. Scrip in each case should be sent to the respective guardians on their applying therefor. There are also six claims previously reserved which I have now allowed, a similar course respecting the issue of scrip in these cases should be followed, as in the aforesaid claims. Upon the claimants applying therefor to the Department, the scrip can be sent to them.

Of the seventeen claims which are still reserved for various reasons indicated thereon, there are five deserving a special mention, the claimants forming one family. The father, although born within the Territory ceded by Treaty 10, has been a resident of Dore Lake for 25 years, all his children being born there. Dore Lake is included in the territory ceded in 1889. These claims would have been dealt with by the Saskatchewan Commission, in 1900, had the claimants appeared, but the father stated that he had had no information of the coming of the Commission to Green Lake and could not, therefore, appear to present his and his family's claims. Because of the family's residence at the time of the treaty, the claims did not come within my jurisdiction. I would recommend, however, that authority be obtained from the Governor in Council to allow of these claims being satisfied.

In the other twelve reserved claims there are nine which should also be given a special consideration. They also form one family. The father, through some misunderstanding, joined a band of Indians and was paid treaty, but almost immediately afterwards

*Accepted by
R/ 13/3219.*

*Stayed by
three
of them*



-4-

*Action taken
order 1430910*

to me and urged that he had done so in error, and asked that the annuity money be taken back and scrip issued to himself and his family. The mother, who is a French Halfbreed, strongly urged her claim to scrip. She stated that her husband had not consulted her before taking treaty and that as far as she was concerned she did not consider that she or the family were bound. She declared she would not agree to be v classed as an Indian. I do not think that under the law I could discharge the family from treaty; but I am of the opinion that they should, under the circumstances, be discharged and given scrip. X

The remaining three reserved claims are held for clearer evidence, two as to residence at the time of treaty, and one as to whether or not treaty was paid to the claimant.

Five claims were disallowed for the following reasons:

- 2 born and died before treaty.
- 1 had already received scrip.
- 1 born 1886 and residing in territory previously ceded.
- 1 in treaty.

All these have been entered in a Register and a note is made of the action taken by me in each case. An alphabetical index to such claims, containing all necessary information relating thereto, has also been prepared. These books, the unused blank certificates, the stubs of all certificates issued by me, and all



documents in relation to claimants' applications, have been handed into the Department of the Interior.

There are a small number of Halfbreeds, who on account of their inability to reach the points at which sittings of the Commission were held, have not had their claims dealt with. Provision should be made for affording these people, as well as the few who may be scattered throughout the Eastern and Northern parts of the Territory covered by Treaty 10, which I was unable to reach, an opportunity of proving their claims.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. J. Macleod

Commissioner.

Mistawasis,
Carlton Agency,
Oct. 15th, 1907.

1491091
on 12/17/280

The Hon. Frank O. [redacted]
Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

1347280

Sir, -

I have the honor to report that, in compliance with the Commission issued to me under an order in Council of the 6th day of April 1907, empowering me to investigate and take evidence bearing upon the claims of Half-breeds for land or scrip, arising out of the extinguishment of the Indian title, who are living in the territory described in and covered by Indian Treaty No.10, and were unable to present their claims before Mr. Commissioner McKenna last year, I took evidences bearing upon 202 claims at the following places, and on the following dates, - viz., -

Isle a la Crosse	--	June 25th-26th-27th-28th & July 2nd and 3rd.
Portage La Loche	--	July 10th-11th-12th & 13th.
Stanley	-----	August 3rd and 4th.
Lac du Brochet Post	-	August 21st and 22nd.
Lac du Brochet		
South End	-----	August 27th.
Lac La Ronge	-----	Sept. 6th and 7th.
Mistawasis	-----	Oct. 4th.

The applications submitted before me may be classified as follows -

At Isle a la Crosse	42 for land & 13 for money scrip.
At Portage La Loche	34 for land & 31 for money scrip.
At Stanley	----- 4 for land & 5 for money scrip.
At Lac du Brochet	
North & South End	- 14 for land & 21 for money scrip.
At Lac La Ronge	-- 16 for land & 20 for money scrip.
At Mistawasis	---- 2 for land.
	<u>112</u> <u>90</u>

All applications made before me by parties of 18 years and under, with the exception of 3, were for money scrip.

Claimants for scrip were informed by me that all evidences taken by me in connection with scrip had to be given under oath, and be submitted to the Department of the Government who had to deal with them -

for [redacted]

1491094

for their approval or be disallowed as the evidence adduced might justify. I also pointed out to the claimants as well as to their witnesses the seriousness of their giving testimony which was not just and truthfully given in every respect.

Many of the applications made at the various points where the Commission held sessions require fuller and more explicit explanations than the time occupied in making this report will admit, and would be too copious to insert here.

No assurance was given by me to any of the applicants for scrip that their claims were to be allowed, nor was there any surety whatsoever vouched by me to parties who were interesting themselves in the buying of scrip, that any application in particular was sure to be accepted and allowed by the Department. I also made it known to applicants for land scrip that in the event of scrip being granted them, they would have to locate their scrip in person and have it registered before it was negotiable for sale or transfer.

Powers of Attorney, Agreements of Sale or Assignments affecting Half-breed scrip in any manner were not admitted nor entertained in any manner or form by me.

I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Commissioner Treaty No.10.