
PART V.

—

NORTH-WEST HALF-BREED COMMISSION.

PART V.

NORTH-WEST HALF-BREED CLAIMS COMMISSION.

OTTAWA, 10th January, 1888.

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

SIR,—We, the undersigned, have the honor to report that, under the powers vested in us by the Order in Council of the 19th May last and by the Commission issued to us bearing the same date, we have completed the investigation of the claims of half-breeds who were residents on the 15th July, 1870, within the limits of that portion of the North-West Territories which has been ceded by the Indians under treaty, and also of the claims of "original white settlers," or their descendants, not being half-breeds, who, between the years 1813 and 1835 both inclusive, went to any part of the North-West Territories, the Indian title in which has since been extinguished, and who were residing in such ceded portions of the Territories on the 26th May, 1874.

We left Winnipeg on the 7th of June last, accompanied by Mr. James Anderson, the Secretary of the Commission, and reached Prince Albert on the 19th of that month, at which place sittings of the Commission were held as well as at Fort Qu'Appelle and St. Laurent, *en route*.

From Prince Albert we proceeded in an open boat (York boat) to the following places, namely :—

Fort à la Corne, Cumberland House, Birch River Portage, The Pas, Moose Lake, and Grand Rapids, on the North Saskatchewan River; Norway House, on the east branch of the Nelson River; Poplar River, Berens River, Fisher River, and Fort Alexander, on Lake Winnipeg.

Owing to the prevailing storms and adverse winds on the lake at that season, we had a long and perilous passage, and did not reach Selkirk until the 24th September.

In accordance with the instructions to that effect contained in your letter of the 27th September last, we left Winnipeg on the 6th of October for Green Lake, *vid* Qu'Appelle, Batoche and Carlton, arriving at our destination on the 20th of that month, and held sittings of the Commission at that place up to the 24th, when we embarked on our return journey. A stop of four days was made *en route* at Duck Lake and Batoche, and on the 9th of November we again returned to Winnipeg, after having travelled by trail over 800 miles, to and from Green Lake.

Fort Pelly was next visited, at which place sittings of the Commission were also held, and the work commenced by the Commission in the spring of 1885 was most satisfactorily concluded.

We then returned to Winnipeg, which we reached on the 26th November.

Mr. E. McColl, the Superintendent of the Manitoba Indian Agencies, who accompanied the Commission, while in his district, for the purpose of dealing with the applications made by the half-breeds attached to Indian bands to withdraw from treaty in order to participate in the half-breed grant, rendered the Commission valuable service, and exercised very great care in permitting only such of them to sever their connection with their respective bands as could satisfactorily show that if they were granted their discharge from treaty they would be in a position to support themselves and families without any further assistance from the Government.

Five hundred and sixty-five applications were dealt with by the Commission during the past season, which are all entered in numerical order in the registers, marked "A" and "B," which contain, besides, a précis of each claim, the decision arrived at and the action taken by the Commission in each case.

The registers above referred to are accompanied by an alphabetical index, marked "C," of the names of all the persons whose claims are entered therein.

The nature of these claims may be classified as follows:—

Claims allowed of persons who have never taken treaty.....	28
Claims allowed of persons who obtained their discharge....	321
Claims allowed of legal representatives of deceased half-breeds.....	54
Claims allowed of original white settlers.....	2
Claims reserved of persons who were residing on 15th July, 1870, within the original limits of the Province of Manitoba.....	7
Claims reserved of persons who were residing on 15th July, 1870, in those portions of the North-West Territories in which the Indian title has not yet been extinguished	73
Claims requiring further evidence.....	49
Claims disallowed.....	31
	<u>565</u>

A detailed statement, marked "D," is attached hereto, showing the number and the nature of claims preferred at each place visited by the Commission.

Scrap certificates have been issued by the Chairman of the Commission as follows:—

Money Scrip.

Form A, 344, amounting to.....	\$72,070 00
Form B, 146.....	9,734 15
	<u>\$81,804 15</u>

Land Scrip.

Form C, 13.....	<u>3,120 acres.</u>
-----------------	---------------------

Certificates on the form A, to the value of \$1,160, which are included in the above statement, have been issued on applications which were made in 1885 or 1886 but which were then reserved for further evidence, and certificates on the form B, amounting to \$771.83, also included in the statement already referred to, have been issued to the heirs of deceased half-breeds whose claims were proved in 1885 or 1886 but who had not received their shares as such heirs.

At Norway House, Fisher River, and Fort Alexander, there are large settlements of half-breeds residing on Indian reserves, and in receipt of Indian annuities, but who all preferred to remain members of the Indian bands to which they belong, and to continue to enjoy as such all treaty privileges.

A schedule is also appended hereto, marked "E," of the claims preferred before Mr. Roger Goulet, in January and February, 1887, at sittings of the Commission, held at the several points mentioned therein, on Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis.

We feel that we cannot close our report without acknowledging, in some measure, the great kindness and attention we received from the members of the

y the Commission
in the registers,
lain, the decision

phabetical index,
ed therein.

.	28
.	321
f.	
..	54
..	2
;	
.	
.	7
;	
s	
l	73
.	49
.	31
<hr/>	
	565
<hr/>	

the number and
on.
Commission as

070 00
,734 15
<hr/>
804 15
<hr/>

acres.

included in the
in 1885 or 1886
on the form B,
ad to, have been
in 1885 or 1886

e large settle-
dian annuities,
ch they belong,

aims preferred
gs of the Com-
itoba and Win-

lging, in some
members of the

clergy and the Hudson's Bay Company officers, at the several missions and posts we
visited, and for the facilities that were afforded us for the prosecution of the work
of the Commission.

We have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

R. GOULET,

N. OMER COTÉ,

Commissioners.

[PART V]

D.—DETAILED STATEMENT of Claims dealt with by the North-West Half-Breed

Commission

PLACES VISITED BY THE COMMISSION.	CLAIMS ALLOWED.									Original White Sett.	
	Non-Treaty Half-Breeds.			Treaty Half-Breeds.			Legal Representa-tives of Deceased Half-Breeds			Living.	Died.
	Heads.	Children.	Total.	Heads.	Children.	Total.	Heads.	Children.	Total.		
Winnipeg		3	3	4	9	13				1	
Fort Qu' Appelle.....					1	1					
St. Laurent, Batoche and Duck Lake..		3	3					2	2		
Prince Albert	1	2	3	7	17	24	7	5	12		
Fort à la Corne	1		1								
Cumberland House	3	2	5	36	68	104	7	8	15		
Birch River Portage				19	30	49	1		1		
The Pas				22	48	70	6	14	20		
Moose Lake				5	8	13					
Grand Rapids				6	13	19		2	2		
Norway House.....		1	1	7	7	14				1	
Poplar River					2	2					
Berens River	2	2	4								
Fisher River				1		1					
Fort Alexander.....	1	3	4					2	2		
Devil's Lake											
Green Lake	1	2	3		1	1					
Russell		1	1								
Fort Pelly				3	7	10					
Totals.....	9	19	28	110	211	321	21	33	54	2	

OTTAWA, 10th January, 1888.

60 E.—STATEMENT of Claims investigated at sittings of the Commission, held at the following places, on Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis, in January and February, 1887.

PLACE.	TREATY.		NON-TREATY.		RESERVED.			MONEY SCRIP.			
	\$160	\$240	\$160	\$240	Further Evidence.	Residents of the Province of Manitoba, on 15th July, 1870.				\$	cts.
						\$160	\$240				
Totogan and Sandy Bay	23	43	3	2	16	31	118	13,760 00	Money Scrip issued— \$ Form A, 165 = 35,580 Form B, 18 = 2,320 Form D, 13 = 2,880 196 = 40,780	
Manitoba House	12	28	.....	2	14	.....	3	59	10,030 00
The Narrows	3	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16	3,360 00
Fairford	8	14	1	5	.....	.....	.....	28	5,600 00
Water Hen River	4	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13	2,160 00
Pine River .....	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	960 00
Duck Bay	5	11	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	18	3,440 00
Winnipeg, scrip issued at, including claim of one "Original White Settler," \$160.....	1,470 00	No land scrip issued.	
Totals	55	122	1	10	18	16	34	256	40,780 00		

OTTAWA, 10th January, 1888.

R. GOULET.
Chairman.