

HALF-BREED COMMISSIONERS

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS McKENNA AND WALKER.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OTTAWA, March 11, 1901.

The Honourable CLIFFORD SIFTON, K.C., P.C.,
Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa.

SIR,—We have the honour to report that in accordance with Letters Patent issued to us under the Great Seal on the 13th day of March, 1900, and your letter of instructions of the 5th May last, we met the commissioners named to deal with the claims of half-breeds in the Saskatchewan country at Regina on the 12th May, and arranged as to the procedure to be followed.

We then proceeded to the investigation of the claims of half-breeds in Assiniboia and Alberta and such claims of Athabasca half-breeds as might be preferred, and held sittings for that purpose at the following places; the dates set opposite the names of the places show the time occupied at each point :—

ASSINIBOIA.

Willow Bunch	from May 16 to May 25, 1900
Fort Qu'Appelle	" May 29 " June 23, "
Touchwood Hills	" June 25 " June 29, "
Fort Qu'Appelle	" June 30.
Swift Current	" July 3 " July 7, "
Maple Creek	" July 9 " July 17, "
Medicine Hat	" July 18 " July 21, "

ALBERTA.

Lethbridge	from July 23 to July 26, 1900
Macleod	" July 26 " Aug. 4, "
Pincher Creek	" Aug. 6 " Aug. 8, "
Calgary	" Aug. 10 " Aug. 16, "
Edmonton	" Aug. 21 " Aug. 23, "
Victoria	" Aug. 29 " Sept. 5, "
Saddle Lake	" Sept. 7 " Sept. 8, "
St. Paul des Métis	" Sept. 10 " Sept. 14, "
Lac la Biche	" Sept. 18 " Sept. 25, "
Athabasca Landing	" Oct. 1 " Oct. 3, "
St. Albert	" Oct. 9 " Oct. 20, "
Lac Ste. Anne	" Oct. 19 " Oct. 28, "
Edmonton	" Oct. 29 " Nov. 15, "
Fort Saskatchewan	" Nov. 15 " Nov. 17, "
Edmonton	" Nov. 19.
Wetaskiwin	" Nov. 20 " Nov. 24, "
Duhamel	" Nov. 26 " Nov. 30, "
Lacombe	" Dec. 3 " Dec. 6, "

1-2 EDWARD VII., A. 1902

We received and dealt with 3,605 distinct written applications, representing claims by or on account of 4,397 half-breeds.

These claims may be classified as follows :—

Claims allowed for living half-breeds.	2,209	
Claims allowed to 2,149 heirs of 1,097 deceased half-breeds.	1,097	3,306
Claims disallowed.		235
Claims reserved for various reasons, of which the following are the principal :—		
Insufficient evidence to establish title to scrip.		856
Born prior to July 15, 1870.		
Foreign residence.		
Manitoba birth.		
Non-appearance of rightful claimants.		
Questions connected with Indian Treaty <i>et al.</i>		
Total.	4,397	

Scrip certificates have been issued by us as follows :—

MONEY SCRIP.

Form C.—876 certificates for living half-breeds.	\$210,240 00
Form D.—1,417 certificates for shares of scrip in favour of the heirs of 439 deceased half-breeds.	105,360 00
Total.	\$315,600 00

LAND SCRIP.

	Acres.
Form E.—1,333 certificates for living half-breeds.	319,920
Form F.—732 certificates for shares of scrip in favour of the heirs of 658 deceased half-breeds.	157,920
Total.	477,840

As will appear by the above statement, scrip certificates were issued covering claims of 3,306 half-breeds, living or deceased, as follows :—

Money Scrip.	1,315
Land Scrip.	1,991
Total.	3,306

A few scrip certificates (Forms C and E), for living half-breeds, as well as a number of certificates (Forms D and F) to heirs of deceased half-breeds, have been issued by the commissioners in favour of the parties entitled to receive them, but have not yet been delivered to the half-breeds in whose favour they are drawn, chiefly because these parties were resident in other localities and were not present to receive them. These certificates are still in the hands of the commission awaiting delivery. They have been included in the above statement of scrip certificates issued, as it is the intention to take such steps for the prompt delivery of the same as may be deemed advisable.

These undelivered scrip certificates amount to as follows :—

284 certificates for money scrip (Forms C and D).	\$14,640 00
32 certificates for land scrip (Forms E and F)	5,760 acres.

SESSIONAL PAPER No. 25

A few claims of Athabasca half-breeds were taken by us, but not of sufficient importance numerically to warrant a separate statement, and they have, therefore, been included in the totals already given herein.

Owing to the delay occasioned by so large a number appearing at the first sittings of the commission, we were unable to attend at certain points on the dates first fixed. A number of claimants were unable to await the arrival of the commissioners, and in order to remove any ground of complaint, we undertook to recommend that special sittings be held at a few principal points in the Territories during the coming summer. These could be arranged for when provision is being made to investigate the claims of the half-breeds of the territory included in the province of Manitoba as now constituted, which was not included in the province as constituted by the Manitoba Act, 33 Victoria, Chapter 3. The commissioners were unable to deal with these claims last year.

J. A. J. McKENNA,
JAMES WALKER,

Commissioners.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS COTE AND McLEOD.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OTTAWA. March 29. 1901.