lesson less emphatic than that involved in the rebellion seven years later
could teach the Dominion Government that satisfaction among the halfbreeds
of the North West as something not to be expected unless and until, in the
matter of land grants, they should be allowed terms similar to those given
their brethren in Manitoba under the Manitoba Act of 1870. The Council
advised that non-transferable location tickets should be issued to each half-
breed head of a family, and each halfbreed child of parents resident in the
Territories at the time of the transfer to Canada. These location tickets
should be valid on any unoccupied Dominion lands. The title should remain
vested in the Crown for ten years, and if within three years after entry no
improvements had been made upon the land, the claim of the halfbreed locatee
should be subject to forfeiture. Furthermore, to induce nomadic halfbreeds
to settle and avoid the destitution which the approaching extinction of the
buffalo rendered imminent, the Council recommended that some initial equip-
ment of agricultural implements and grain be granted them. Had these wise
proposals been received with favor, much misery might have been avoided.

The constant danger that petty strife between settlers and Indians might
provoke a serious outbreak was ever in the minds of the authorities in these
critical days. During the session of 1878 a petition was presented praying
for an ordinance to compel Indians, camping near a settlement, to keep their
dogs secured, on pain of the animals being lawfully subject to destruction
by the settlers. The Council passed a suggestive resolution, declar-/p.197/
ing it "inexpedient in the present state of the Indian question in this
country to grant the prayer of the petitioners."

In the course of the session, the Lieutenant-Governor reported to his
Council that the Honorable Davis Mills, Minister of the Interior, had
suggested the legality and wisdom of action on the part of the Council to
allow local school corporations to tax themselves for educational purposes.