

“ for the final subdivision into sections so far complete as to make the country ready for any amount of immigration in the coming year.

“ The local management of the Crown domain has been placed in the charge of Mr. McMicken, and that gentleman has entered upon the business of his office with an energy and spirit which guarantee his fitness for the difficult and laborious duties incident to the position.

“ The vast interior lying to our west has hitherto been open only to the dog train or the Red River cart. At this moment, within a few miles of where we write, may be seen the hulls of two steamers—one of which, in the early part of next season, will startle with its shrill whistle the wandering savages of Lake Manitoba: while the echoes of the other will reverberate from the winding banks of the Saskatchewan.

“ The interior will hereafter be accessible without exposure and without toil, and the shrieks of the steamship along the great river of the West will herald a population that will spread itself along its banks and carry the arts of civilization and refinement to our western wilds.

“ A year ago we were riven by intestine dissensions and angry feelings. Some of our people, few in number but noisy in demonstration—with little to lose and everything to gain from civil convulsions—did their best to inflame these dangerous passions. A band of lawless men speculated upon this state of things and invaded our territory, hoping that in the excitement of passion one-half our people would flock to their standard. The indignant uprising of a thousand Englishmen, ready to defend their country and their flag,—the united phalanx of the French Metis of all the parishes, avowing a determination to rally to the Crown, was the response these marauders received. We gave proof to the invaders and to the world that, differ as we might among ourselves on matters of minor moment, our hearts were right and our hands ready when duty called us to the defence of our common country.

“ A year ago it took thirty days to receive from Ottawa a reply to a telegraphic message; now as many hours suffice.

“ A year ago the nearest communication with the outside world was by way of St. Cloud. A dreary journey of 400 miles separated Fort Garry from the terminus of the railway.

“ In one year the iron road has abridged that distance by half, and we are now within 200 miles of the North Pacific crossing at Morehead, in the neighborhood of Georgetown.

“ A little over a year ago the military expedition, sent from Collingwood by the Lakes, after prodigies of toil and endurance, succeeded in reaching Fort Garry by the circuitous route of the Winnipeg River, after a march of three months. This year, so much is the line improved, that 200 men, at a season when snow and frost had increased enormously the hardships of the route, reached Fort Garry in perfect health, and without an accident, in twenty days from the day they left Thunder Bay.

“ A year ago the question of a railway to the Pacific was a thing of theory. Its practicability was based upon conjecture. The whole country between this and the western frontier of Ontario was unknown. During the past season the intervening space has been divided into sections. An efficient surveying party has been despatched into each, while between Fort Garry and the West a party has been organized to reconnoitre the ground and pursue their explorations, till they shall meet, in the gorges of the Rocky Mountains, other parties sent out from the Pacific coast. By the time parliament shall have met, the Government of the Dominion will be in a position to judge of the who'e line of country intervening between the Ottawa and the borders of the Pacific Ocean.

“ May we not fairly say, then, that this Province has made great strides during the year that is just closing?

“ Out of the chaos in which the arrival of the Lieutenant-Governor found us order and peace have been evoked; the excitements of times of trouble have passed away. A police has been organized, an enumeration of the inhabitants made, the country has been parcelled off into electoral divisions, elections have been held, an Assembly returned and convened, a responsible Ministry constituted, a code of laws enacted, courts of justice

“ organized and put in operation, justice administered, criminals tried, convicted and sentenced; the Indian title to half a continent released, the public domain of the Province surveyed, laid off in blocks and made ready for immigration; lines of communication with Thunder Bay by the lakes, and with Duluth and St. Paul by the United States, improved; steamships for communicating with the interior in course of construction, and railway explorations across the continent almost complete; mail routes and post offices established all over the Province, custom houses instituted and duties collected, prisons and penitentiaries built; and, last of all, a telegraph line established, making us part and parcel of the living world. We may well ask whether the crowding of all these events into the compass of a single year is not a theme upon which we may congratulate ourselves and the Dominion to which we belong. We challenge the world to produce an instance where such an amount of work in any country or about any country has crowded the annals of a single year. Some of this work has been done outside of the authorities of the Dominion; but it is fair to say even of what has been so done, that much of it is due to the energy with which the Dominion authorities and the local authorities have applied themselves to the task of opening and developing the vast resources of the country committed to their charge.

“ Of the rest of the work we are not concerned to apportion to each of the parties engaged in it the exact measure of praise which may be due.

“ Where all have worked well it would be invidious to distinguish; but this we may say, that the Government of the Dominion and the officials they have sent here, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province and the gentlemen with whom he has been surrounded, as his constitutional advisers, have acted with but one aim—that of faithfully discharging the responsible functions which the possession of this noble heritage imposes upon those who have in their hands the administration of public affairs.”

COMMITTEE ROOM,  
May 18th, 1874.

Lieut.-Governor Archibald's evidence continued:

I have now produced all the correspondence I had with any Member of the Government of Canada, with reference to the Fenian raid.

I have made a memorandum respecting the money transaction affecting Riel, which I now produce.

(No. 112.)

“ I understand that His Grace Archbishop Taché, in his evidence, has stated that he told me he had \$1,000 at his disposal.

“ He must be under a misapprehension. The first I ever heard of the \$1,000 was when the report of the newspapers of the proceedings upon this Committee was published. He is also under misapprehension if he states, as I understand he has, that I asked Mr. Smith to furnish funds, and that they would, of course, be reimbursed by the Canadian Government.

“ His Grace's recollection must be very imperfect on this point. I stated distinctly that I had no funds under my control; that I had no power to dispose of the funds of Canada, and no knowledge what might be the views of the Canadian Government. I felt I was taking a great responsibility upon myself, but from my point of view I felt that in the true interests of the Dominion, it was most desirable that these parties should leave the country.

“ Indeed I did not see how it was possible to preserve the peace if they remained while large rewards were offered, the hopes of which would induce men to act with warrant, or without warrant.

“ Already a party of some eight or ten disbanded volunteers had, without warrant, made a raid on the house of Riel's mother, with faces masked and armed with revolvers, when they committed outrages that had excited the French half-breeds almost to frenzy.

" I therefore did not hesitate to say that as far as my own judgment went, I was quite prepared to take that line of action, and assume the responsibility of it.

" I trusted the Government of Canada would take the same view of it; but they might not; and as I was only a *locum tenens* for the moment, I should certainly leave them free to assume or repudiate the policy.

" The transaction between the Bishop and Sir John A. Macdonald appears to have been in December, 1871. This was in February, 1872.

" The grounds of danger which prompted Sir John's action, were entirely different from those that prompted mine.

" Sir John appears to have feared a second Fenian invasion, and to have doubts as to the line Riel and others would take. He was judging from without, and from sources of information different from mine. From the 5th October I never had a doubt on this point.

" My conviction as to the attitude of Riel and others in the invasion, had no doubt some influence on my mind in making me desire that they should not be involved in an armed resistance in case an attempt was made to arrest them.

" The whole matter was talked over before Donald A. Smith, M.P., who entirely agreed as to the soundness of the policy, and then the question arose as to how the funds were to be raised. Mr. Smith said that if I directed it, he would find the funds.

" I said I could only do that as a private individual, and although I took it for granted that the Government of the Dominion would not willingly make me a victim, they might not see their way clear to make it right. Mr. Smith said he had no doubt of the view they would take of it, and if there was any risk he was willing to share it with me.

" It was certainly agreed that Mr. Smith should advance the money to the Bishop, with the distinct understanding that these men should continue absent about twelve months.

" I supposed that the £600 covered the whole advances connected with these parties.

" I learned afterwards both from Mr. Smith and the Archbishop that this sum had been paid and the men had left the Province. My letter to Sir George Cartier put in evidence, details the general results without reference to the money transaction. I left the explanation of this to Mr. Smith, who was about visiting Ottawa, from whom I afterwards learned that he had seen Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir George Cartier, and that he was satisfied with what they said.

" I do not think that in any conversation with either of these gentlemen, of the many I had with them afterwards, the subject of this payment was ever mentioned.

" When I found Mr. Smith had been satisfied with the assurances received by him I did not feel it a matter of special concern to myself.

" In speaking of rewards I refer to the rewards offered by the Ontario Legislature and the Middlesex County Council.

" The vote had not then passed the Ontario Legislature, but it had been spoken of. The raid I spoke of was for the purpose of arresting Riel. The persons concerned in it threatened violence to Riel's mother and sister. I do not remember the date of the raid. I never brought the subject of the money advanced by Mr. Smith before the Government, but I understood from Mr. Smith that he had done so. I never told Mr. Smith that the Government had undertaken to make good the £600 he advanced. In my conversation with him to which he refers, I spoke only of another sum respecting which he has spoken in his evidence, namely, some compensation to the loyal French.

" I never had any conversation with Sir John A. Macdonald on the subject of the six hundred pounds. I derived the information as to Sir John's motives in respect of the money he advanced from Sir John himself since I came to Ottawa on the present occasion. Any one who derived his information only from English sources would probably have come to the same conclusion on which I have stated that Sir John probably acted.

" But I had information from both parties. Having heard read Sir John's statement that I had information more or less reliable that Riel and Lepine were playing a double game, I say that I certainly had some information to that effect from certain sources; but I did not consider it reliable, and Sir John must be mistaken in supposing that I communicated any impression to him of that nature. I did think, previous to the 4th of October, that they were playing a double game, but not after that date."

I now produce the correspondence to which I have referred in the foregoing statement respecting the election of Sir George Cartier.

I do not know that the conditions transmitted to Sir John A. Macdonald were prepared by Riel, but of course I had no doubt that he had been consulted about them. They were written down by myself as dictated by the Archbishop, and they were initiated by him afterwards.

(No. 113.)

" So soon as the intelligence arrived from Ottawa that Sir George Cartier had lost his election in Montreal, it occurred to some of his friends in Manitoba, that it would be a wise thing to return him for one of the Counties of that Province, in which the elections were about a fortnight later than in the older Provinces.

" Up to this period the only candidates for Provencher were Mr. Riel and Mr. Clarke, the latter the Attorney General of Manitoba. Mr. Clarke seemed to be under the impression that he could carry the county. He had spent some time in his canvass, he had met Riel at several public assemblies, which were conducted with a good deal of violence. I assured myself, by inquiry, that he had no chance. I saw that Riel, if he persisted in offering, would be sure to succeed by a large majority. I believed that his success would be disastrous in every way—to the best interest alike of the Province and of the Dominion, and was looking round to find some way out of the complication. Just at this time came the telegraph from Sir John A. Macdonald, dated the 4th September.

" I then sent for Mr. Clarke, and talked the matter over with him, and subsequently for Bishop Taché. Clarke alleged he could beat Riel, and declared he would fight it out to the end if Riel ran, but he would consent to retire if all other local candidates did the same; he seemed to imagine that some third person would be brought out belonging to the Province, if the two other contestants should retire. To the Archbishop I represented the consequences which would result from Riel's return. I told him he would likely never reach Ottawa, and if he should do so, he would be sure to be expelled the House; that his return would be a source of perpetual trouble, and would retard the progress of the country in every way; that supposing the best to happen that could happen from his point of view, and that Riel would be allowed to take his seat quietly, he could hardly expect to exercise any considerable influence in the Dominion Parliament, while accident had presented to the new Province a noble opportunity of having a voice in the Cabinet of the Dominion; that with this view the best thing that could be done, was, that all local candidates should withdraw, and the people pitch upon Sir George, who, if elected under these circumstances, could not but feel a desire, and certainly would have power, to do everything that could reasonably be asked for the interests of the Province and the country. I added, that if this was done, it must be clearly understood that the local candidates were withdrawing to leave the field free; so that Sir George might be named as a candidate, upon whom the whole constituency might rally. The negotiation was prolonged for some hours. Next day the Archbishop informed me he had consulted with a number of leading people of the County, and that he found they would be willing, if Mr. Clarke withdrew, to combine with Mr. Clarke's supporters in the nomination of Sir George Cartier, provided that gentleman was willing to give certain pledges in reference to hay privileges claimed by the people under the Manitoba Act, and to protect them in the possession of certain claims to lands selected by them under that Act.

" I accordingly telegraphed to Sir John Macdonald on the 5th September the precise conditions that were suggested, and asked for a reply. Subsequently, considerable cor-

"response, by telegraph and otherwise, ensued, all of which is set forth in the various messages and letters submitted. These resulted in a reply from Sir John, which proved acceptable to all parties, saying that 'Sir George would do his best to meet the wishes of all parties,' and adding, 'that this statement should be satisfactory.'

"In the meanwhile, a fourth candidate had come on the field in the person of a Mr. Davy, a barrister from Napanee, but at the hustings he found that he had no chance, and he, as well as the other two local candidates, retired after being nominated. The result was that Sir George was, on the 14th September, returned by acclamation, there being no other candidate."

The nature and progress of the negotiations will appear by the copies of telegrams, and letters bearing date between the 4th and 14th September inclusive, submitted to the Committee.

(No. 114.)

*Cypher telegram: Sir Jno. A. Macdonald to Lieut.-Governor Archibald.*

"4th September, 1872.

"Get Sir George elected in your Province—do not however allow late Provisional resign in his favor.

"(Signed,) JNO. A. MACDONALD."

(No. 115.)

*Cypher telegram to Sir John A. Macdonald from Lieut.-Governor Archibald.*

"5th September, 1872.

"Sir George can be elected by acclamation for Provencher if he feels free to say,—

"That the settlers shall be continued in the exercise of all the rights they have been accustomed to enjoy in respect of the lands on the rear of their lots, and no sales or entries thereon shall be permitted till the question of those rights shall be settled and adjusted under the agreement with the delegates.

"That no person shall be allowed to enter on the townships laid aside for the half-breeds from the date of their selection, and any person entering after that date to be removed by the Government authority."

"The above, though ungracious to ask, concedes nothing.

"The land where hay privilege exists is, with hardly an exception, included in half-breed selections recently laid aside under orders from Land Department. These lands are already withdrawn from market or entry (see Col. Dennis), and as to hay compensation it ought to be settled before next haying, and at all events whether settled or not, land cannot be sold or entered upon while it remains a half-breed selection. McMicken agrees with me that that demand, though ungracious, amounts to nothing. Please consult Sir George, who, so far as I know has no cypher, and reply immediately."

"(Signed,) A. G. ARCHIBALD."

(No. 116.)

(Cypher telegram.)

*Lieutenant-Governor Archibald to Sir John A. Macdonald, K.C.B.*

"6th September, 1872.

"Not proposed that either candidate resign in favor of any person. Local candidates, though determined to fight each other, will give way to secure a Cabinet Minister for representative, thus acquiring for Province direct voice in Cabinet.

"(Signed,) A. G. ARCHIBALD."

(No. 117.)

*Lieutenant-Governor Archibald to Sir John A. Macdonald.*

" 11th September, 1872.

" Is there any answer to my cypher telegram? Time passing, and parties anxious  
" have telegraphed direct, requesting reply.

" (Signed,) A. G. ARCHIBALD."

(No. 118.)

(Telegram.)

*Sir John A. Macdonald to Lieutenant Governor Archibald.*

" 11th September, 1872.

" I have sent message to Cartier, at Montreal, to-day, and expect his answer to-  
" morrow by telegram. Offered several seats here. A Minister ought, I think, to give  
" no pledge; it is a question of confidence altogether.

" (Signed,) JOHN A. MACDONALD."

(Copy.)

(No. 119.)

" Thursday morning, 12th Sept.

" (*Private and Confidential.*)

" MY DEAR ARCHBISHOP,—I received last evening a telegram from Sir John, to say  
" that he had received my message, and sent it to Sir George, and that he expected a  
" reply to-day, and would forward it to me at once.

" I see that he thinks the constituency ought to elect Sir George frankly and with-  
" out stipulation. They could safely confide in promises, which being already made, can  
" gain no strength by repetition.

" You shall have the answer from Sir George whenever it arrives.

" Yours, &amp;c.,

" (Signed,) A. G. ARCHIBALD.

" His Grace the Archbishop."

(No. 120.)

*Sir J. A. Macdonald to Governor Archibald.*

" OTTAWA, 12th Sept., 1872.

" Sir George will do all he can to meet the wishes of the parties. This statement  
" should be satisfactory.

" (Signed,) JOHN A. MACDONALD."

" Copy of telegram received from Sir John A. Macdonald, in reply to my telegram  
" of the 5th September, 1872.

" (Signed,) A. G. ARCHIBALD.

" For His Grace the Archbishop."

(Copy.)

(No. 121.)

" Thursday, 12th September, 1872.

" MY DEAR ARCHBISHOP,—I had sent you, by Mr. Boutillier, before the arrival of  
" your note, what will be satisfactory.

" Could you make it convenient to see me in the morning, say, if possible, at ten  
" o'clock, so that I may communicate with the parties.

" The receipt of this telegram does not change my belief that the unconditional  
" return of Sir George is in the interests of the people here quite as much as in that of  
" Sir George.

" I remain, &amp;c.,

" (Signed,) A. G. ARCHIBALD.

" His Grace Archbishop Taché."

(No. 122.)

(Translation.)

" Saturday, 6 a.m.

" To His Excellency,

" The Hon. A. G. Archibald,

" I have pleasure in informing you that success now appears to me certain. I had  
 " no definite news until two o'clock this morning. That is the reason why I did not send  
 " yesterday evening, provided always that Davy raises no obstacles.

" With respect and affection, yours most devotedly,

" (Signed,) ALEXANDER,

" Archbishop of St. Boniface."

(No. 123.)

*Copy of Cypher Telegram from Sir John A. Macdonald to Lieutenant-Governor  
 Archibald,*

" Ottawa, 13th.

" FORT GARRY, 14th.

" Sir George, who is absent, agrees with me as to pledges it will be his interest to  
 " secure the approbation of his constituents, and he can be of more service to them than  
 " any other man.

" (Signed,) JOHN A. MACDONALD."

After the election I wrote a congratulatory letter to Sir George on his election, but I did not enter into any details of the previous events.

In October I left the territory. Nothing transpired in the meantime which can throw light on the subject of the inquiry.

My note of 5th September to the Archbishop was meant to refer to the benefits to be derived from having a Cabinet minister to represent a district of Manitoba, not at all to any advantage that might be derived therefrom by the persons implicated in the troubles.

My idea is that I must have seen the Archbishop before writing the letter of 5th September, and that the object of this letter was to press for a decision in favor of the view I had then expressed.

In the course of my examination I have produced to the Committee all the correspondence between myself and any member of the Government which would throw any light on the subjects as to which I have been examined.

I do not remember having received any communications coming from the Imperial Government relative to my answers to addresses.

I don't think there was any discussion as to the amnesty between the three of us, while the Archbishop, Sir George and myself were on the St. Lawrence on the way to Niagara.

ADAMS G. ARCHIBALD.

[The following Extract was handed in by Governor Archibald.]

(No. 124.)

*Extract from Letter from Hon. Adams G. Archibald to Donald A. Smith.*

" (Private.)

" GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

" HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,

" 20th December, 1873.

" MY DEAR MR. SMITH,—Your private letter of the 10th has enlightened me on  
 " several points on which I am ill-informed. I am truly astonished at one or two of the  
 " things you mention. After all that had taken place, I could hardly have believed it  
 " possible that two of the matters you refer to could have been left as they are. There  
 " can be no excuse for such neglect. Nobody knew better than Sir John, or admitted  
 " more unreservedly the essential service rendered to the Government in the steps taken  
 " to get them rid of an excitement which would have been found to be beyond their con-

" trol at the time, and when friends stepped into the gap and assumed risks, they should not have been left in that position an instant longer than was absolutely necessary. The matter should have been arranged at once, the more so that it was so often pressed. The same may be said of the compensation to the loyal French, which, to my certain knowledge, was arranged for at the time I mentioned to you. I had assumed that both these matters had been disposed of long ago. It is really unparadonable.

COMMITTEE ROOM,  
18th May, 1874.

George Fuvoye, Esquire, examined :—

I am Deputy of the Minister of Militia and Defence. I have filled that office since Confederation.

I was present at a meeting between Sir George Cartier and Father Ritchot on 19th May, 1870, or thereabouts, when Sir George told Father Ritchot this : "*Je garantis que vous aurez tout ce que vous avez demandé.*" I did not hear the conversation which had preceded this expression, nor was anything said afterwards during the same interview further. It was at the close of a long interview between them when I was called in and heard these words.

Father Ritchot came from Sir George's direct into my room, which was almost adjoining, and told me that Sir George had guaranteed that an amnesty for all the past should be granted as soon as it could possibly be obtained.

After Father Ritchot had left me I went into Sir George's room, when he told me that he had promised all that the delegates requested, and he hoped that everything was finally settled.

He asked me if Father Ritchot was satisfied, and I told him that he assured me that the promises made by Sir George were quite satisfactory. This interview was early in the day, and, I presume, before any audience of the Governor on that day.

I cannot recollect whether anything further or more detailed took place at this time.

In repeated subsequent interviews with Sir George, he frequently told me that he had promised the delegates that a general amnesty should be granted for all past offences.

I wrote the letter of 23rd May, of Sir George and the postscripts, by the dictation of Sir George himself.

With reference to the last paragraph of the letter itself, I have always heard from Sir George that the expression "the liberal policy which the Government proposed to follow in relation to the persons for whom you are interesting yourself," referred to the granting of a general amnesty which should cover all the offences of the past.

He was aware that there was a difficulty—the death of Scott was a difficulty—but it was, he said, to be got over, and that everything was to be wiped out.

My impression is that he dictated the latter of 23rd May. I was not, I think, present at an interview between Father Ritchot and Sir George, between the writing of the letter and the writing of the postscript.

I cannot recollect the precise words of Sir George's subsequent conversations with me. I have no doubt whatever that I have accurately stated their substance.

Sir George addressed a strictly confidential memorandum to Lord Lisgar on the subject of the amnesty, in the latter end of May, 1870. I presume that this memorandum is in the Governor's Secretary's Office. There is not either a copy or the draft in the archives of the Department. It was written by myself, at the dictation of Sir George at his own house. It took eight or ten evenings. I still have the notes from which I made the copy, and these shew substantially the document.

I saw Father Ritchot about the 1st June. I gave him a packet of my cards for presentation to my friends in Manitoba, and told him, "Tell the friends that there is no fear but they will have all you have asked for, if promised by Sir George." We parted,



both under the firm conviction that an amnesty, extending to that time would be granted, my conviction being derived from the repeated assurances of Sir George that he would effect it.

After Sir George's death, all the papers in his official room were minutely examined by myself and Mr. Sulte, one of the clerks in the office.

He was in the habit of keeping everything. We destroyed everything which was of no importance. As to the rest, they were packed in separate parcels and delivered to such persons as we supposed to be most interested in them. All in any way relating to the North-West were placed in a large envelope, sealed and sent to Sir John Macdonald in his capacity of First Minister.

The papers he used to keep at his office were relatively unimportant. He always took home with him, to a room or office in his own house, the important papers. What became of these I know not, save that Mr. Langevin told me he had taken possession of everything.

GEO. FUTVOYE.

COMMITTEE ROOM,  
May 19, 1874.

Sir John A. Macdonald's evidence resumed:—

Since my former examination, I have read the examinations of Archbishop Taché and Father Ritchot.

With reference to the Archbishop's statement, that I said, as did Mr. Devine afterwards, "that if Lepine were convicted he would be pardoned;" what I meant to convey was, that certainly he would not be executed—that his sentence would be commuted.

After the resignation of the late Government, I saw the Archbishop, and we talked the whole subject over and the chances of an amnesty under the new Administration, when he used this expression: "Well, I thought I had been promised an amnesty, but I may have been mistaken." This had reference to a supposed promise by the late Government.

Father Ritchot says that, in a conversation at which Mr. Langevin was present, I neither admitted nor denied the promise of an amnesty by the Canadian Government or myself.

I desire to say that I heard Father Ritchot's re-statement of the grounds for amnesty; that these were translated to me by Mr. Langevin; and that I understood that the scope of his conversation was directed to the promise alleged to be made by Lord Lisgar and Sir Clinton Murdoch; and I then informed him that such promise was denied by these gentlemen.

These are the only statements I have to make as to the examinations of the Archbishop and Father Ritchot.

I have looked through Mr. Archibald's letters to-day, and I do not find anything in them which would throw light on the subjects of the reference to the Committee.

A large bundle of papers was sent me from Sir George's office, after his death (I think by Mr. Futvoye), in the nature of confidential State papers.

I have not myself examined them, but I asked my private secretary to do so, and to see whether there were any papers of importance. He reported that there were none.

As to Sir George Cartier's papers at his residence, I understood that Sir George's executors and Mr. Langevin had examined them all and destroyed such as they thought were unimportant or ought to be destroyed. What became of the rest I do not know. My information was derived from one of the executors and the notary, as well as from Mr. Langevin.

JOHN A. MACDONALD.

The following letters and memorandum were also submitted to the Committee:—

(No. 126.)

OTTAWA, JUNE 9th, 1870.

"MY LORD,—Sir George Cartier has now furnished me with an elaborate statement of his views with copious references, which I trust will provide your Lordship with ample materials upon which to ground the decision of Her Majesty's Government.

" This document is entitled to all the consideration due to the writer's long experience and high political standing in British North America, but is not to be regarded as a Minute of Council nor as the expression of the opinion of the united Cabinet.

" I have, &c.,

" (Signed,)

JOHN YOUNG.

" The Right Honorable

" The Earl of Granville, K.G."

(No. 127.)

" GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA,

" May 21st, 1874.

" SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor General to transmit, for the information of the North-West Committee, the following documents:—

" 1st. A letter from Sir John Macdonald, late Minister of Justice, to His Excellency asking permission to have communicated to the Committee a confidential memorandum submitted by Sir George Cartier, when acting as Minister of Justice during Sir John's illness, to Lord Lisgar, in reference to a petition from the Rev. Father Ritchot to Her Majesty. 2nd. A letter from His Excellency to Sir John Macdonald pointing out the confidential character of Sir George Cartier's paper, and stating the considerations which induce him to give the permission sought for: And 3rdly, the memorandum of Sir George Cartier referred to in the above correspondence.

" I have the honor to be, Sir,

" Your obedient servant,

" (Signed,)

H. FLETCHER,

" Governor General's Secretary.

" The Chairman of the

" North-West Committee."

(No. 128.)

" OTTAWA, 19th May, 1874.

" DEAR LORD DUFFERIN,—I see by the newspapers that Mr. Futvoje, in his evidence before the Committee on North-Western affairs, has alluded to a memorandum said to have been prepared by Sir George Cartier, on the subject of the amnesty.

" I think it but right to Sir George's memory, that this memorandum should be laid before the Committee, so that they may see exactly what he did say. If you see no objection to this course, I take the liberty of asking Your Excellency to cause a copy of the Minute in question to be transmitted to the Committee for their information.

" Believe me, Dear Lord Dufferin,

" Faithfully yours,

" JOHN A. MACDONALD."

(No. 129.)

(Private.)

" GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

" OTTAWA, May 20th, 1874.

" MY DEAR SIR JOHN,—I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 19th inst., in which you request me to cause to be communicated to the North-West Committee a memorandum, drawn up by Sir George Cartier, for the information of my predecessor, Lord Lisgar, in reference to a petition from the Rev. Abbé Ritchot to Her Majesty, dated 8th June, 1870.

" This document, emanating from a member of the Privy Council and embodying advice, tendered by a Minister to the Queen's Representative, is of course a most confidential paper; even its author could not have produced it before the Committee without my consent; and it is certainly desirable, in the interest of the public service, that all communications which take place between the Crown and its Ministers should continue to be considered as privileged, according to the well-known usage of the British Constitution. As, however, Sir George is dead, and as he drew up the memorandum in question in his capacity of acting Minister of Justice, and as your *locum tenens* during your absence and illness, I believe I shall be acting in accordance with the rule recog-

"nized under such circumstances, in granting the permission you seek, to have the document in question communicated to the Committee, for which I have therefore given the necessary directions.

"Believe me, my dear Sir John,

"Yours very truly,

"(Signed,)

DUFFERIN."

(No. 131.)

(Copy.)

*Memorandum of Sir George E. Cartier.*

OTTAWA, June 8th, 1870.

"In obedience to Your Excellency's request, the undersigned has the honor to submit for Your Excellency's consideration the following memo., which, it is well understood, must be of a confidential nature, on the Petition to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen from the Rev. Father Ritchot, acting as well on his own part as in the name and on behalf of the Honorable Judge Black and Alfred Scott, Esquire, the three Petitioners being delegates from the North-West Territory and Red River, and praying for the exercise of Her Majesty's prerogative of mercy in favor of the settlers in Red River, concerned in the illegal acts, which took place in the settlement during the period referred to in the Petition.

"The undersigned would respectfully submit that the question is somewhat of a delicate and complicated nature, and for arriving at its solution it is necessary to consider and appreciate the leading facts and events which have transpired during the period of the disturbances from the beginning.

"To prevent the undersigned from entering into unnecessary details of the lamentable occurrences, he would refer Your Excellency to the 'Correspondence and Papers connected with recent occurrences in the North-West Territories,' (A), the 'Report of the Select Committee of the Senate on the North-West Territory,' (B), the 'Report of the Rev. J. B. Thibault, of 17th March, 1870,' (C), and the 'Report of D. A. Smith, Esq., of the 12th April, 1870,' (D), printed by order and for the use of the Dominion Parliament, and to such other papers, despatches, and correspondence which may be in Your Excellency's possession, but which have not been considered proper to be laid before Parliament. The first document when hereafter referred to, is designated as Paper A. It is well to mention at the outset that with regard to the prayer of the Petition, the settlers will rely undoubtedly on the proclamation of Your Excellency of the 6th December last as an offer or promise of an amnesty, on the condition of their peaceable obedience and immediate dispersion.

"By that proclamation, which is to be found on page 44 of Paper A, the settlers were invited to make known to Your Excellency their grievances, with a view to having them redressed; they were assured that on the union of their Territory with Canada, all their civil rights and privileges would be respected; their properties be secured to them, and their country governed as in the past, in the spirit of British justice; they were invited to peaceably disperse; and they were informed that on their immediate and peaceable dispersion, orders would be given that no legal proceedings be taken against any parties implicated in those unfortunate breaches of the law.

"As stated in the Petition, the settlers, on the invitation made to them by Your Excellency's proclamation, and also on the invitation of the Government of Canada, were requested to send delegates, and, as I explained in that Petition, delegates were sent by the settlers, and the result of their conference with Your Excellency and Your Ministers, was the passing of the Measure for the Government of the Province of the Province of Manitoba, which the delegates have accepted as a measure of redress and pacification, and which they vouched would be accepted as such by the settlers.

"The undersigned is of opinion that the petitioners correctly state in the petition, that owing to the difficulty of communication, particularly during the fall and winter, between Red River and the Capital of Canada, it was impossible for the settlers to send

“ delegates at an earlier date than the time at which the delegates came to Ottawa, a  
 “ circumstance which is to be regretted ; and the undersigned also thinks that the delay  
 “ which has necessarily occurred ought not to be regarded by Your Excellency as an  
 “ evidence of unwillingness on the part of the settlers to respond to the call of Your  
 “ Excellency and of the Dominion Government.

“ The principal, and indeed the only difficulty which presents itself to the undersigned  
 “ as being in the way of Her Majesty in being pleased to grant a general amnesty in favor  
 “ of those parties concerned in the disturbances at Red River, during the period stated in  
 “ the petition, is the unfortunate shooting of Thomas Scott, under a pretended sentence of  
 “ a court martial, in the eye and letter of the law illegally organized by the Provisional  
 “ Government.

“ For the facts and circumstances which attended the shooting of the poor man Scott,  
 “ the undersigned would refer Your Excellency to pages 7 and 8 of the Report of D. A.  
 “ Smith, Esq., in which it is properly stated that the one great merit claimed for the insur-  
 “ rection was, that up to the shooting of Scott, it had been bloodless.

“ It is to some extent pretended that in that report by Riel and his followers, that  
 “ the shooting of Scott was ordered as a necessary thing for the preservation of the peace  
 “ of the inhabitants of the settlement ; that Scott was a dangerous character, and a dis-  
 “ turber of the peace ; that he had been twice caught in arms, and twice pardoned by the  
 “ Provisional Government ; that he was a violent man ; and even that he had been the  
 “ ringleader in a rising against Mr. Snow, when in charge of a party employed by the  
 “ Canadian Government in making a road some time previous.

“ With regard to the fact of Mr. Scott having been one of the working party  
 “ employed by Mr. Snow in road-making, the undersigned would refer Your Excellency  
 “ to an account and receipt filed by Mr. Snow with the Government as a voucher, in  
 “ which Mr. Snow states that he was forced, under threats and grievous bodily harm, to  
 “ pay to Scott and others of the working party, the sums opposite their respective names.  
 “ It is probably to that circumstance that Riel alluded in his remarks to Mr. Smith about  
 “ Scott before the latter was shot.

“ No one, outside of the circle of the difficulties existing for some time in the Red  
 “ River settlement, can come to any other conclusion than that the shooting of Scott,  
 “ without speaking of the illegality, was, to say the least of it, an act of excessive abuse  
 “ of power, and of cruel brutality ; but to well appreciate the character of the deed, one  
 “ must, as it were, transport oneself into the midst of the excited community at the time  
 “ the deed was perpetrated, and must consider well the habits and current of thought of  
 “ that community, and also consider well the links in the chain of illegal events which  
 “ unfortunately took place for several months before the perpetration of the deed.

“ To begin : First, there is no doubt that there was a strong feeling of antagonism,  
 “ unanimously almost it may be said, in the half-breeds of all races and religions against  
 “ the introduction of Canadian authority into the settlement ; but at no time before or  
 “ during the trouble did those feelings exist against the sovereign power of the Queen, nor  
 “ even against the political rule of the Hudson's Bay Company, which, though weak, was  
 “ considered as benevolent and patriarchal, and to some extent was popular.

“ It is a fact beyond doubt that the few who were opposed to the growing rule of the  
 “ Hudson's Bay Company before the disturbances, were mostly settlers from Canada, who  
 “ seem to have directed their energy in opposing the Hudson's Bay Company's Govern-  
 “ ment, and who advocated its being replaced by the Canadian authorities. These few  
 “ Canadians, by their opposition and their policy against the Hudson's Bay Company ren-  
 “ dered themselves most objectionable, and to some extent detestable to the half-breeds of  
 “ all origins and creeds, almost unanimously, who had been brought up to like and respect  
 “ the patriarchal rule of the Hudson's Bay Company.

“ It must be born in mind that the half-breeds of all creeds and origins, as well as  
 “ their ancestors, have been always ready since the war of 1812, between the North-  
 “ West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company to assist the weak power of the  
 “ Hudson's Bay Company, and to help it in every struggle or difficulty against Indians

" or others. Then in the midst of that state of feeling came some subordinate employes of the Canadian Government in road making, who gave themselves unwarranted and assumed airs of authority, and also the surveying party from Canada, under the injudicious Colonel Dennis, who aggravated the irritation of feelings by their proceedings, in trying, notwithstanding the opposition made to them, to include in their attempt at surveying, lands in the actual possession of the settlers.

" The natural feeling amongst the settlers was that the new comers had been sent amongst them to survey and measure their lands with a view of despoiling the settlers of them.

" There were also some erroneous but prevailing ideas amongst the settlers that they had been sold out in some manner by the Hudson's Bay Company to the Canadian Government, under the British North America Act, the provisions of which they did not know at the time, as subsequent events have proved. The settlers were prepared to view, and in fact viewed the immigration of Canadians in the light of invasion, as they would have viewed the invasion of their territory by Indians in former times.

" It is well here to observe that the political power of the Hudson's Bay Company, very weak in itself, and at no time sufficient to protect the community against the commission of crime by a proper administration of the criminal laws, had received a great blow by the passing of the British North America Act.

" It may be said properly that at the time Colonel Dennis and his surveying party irritated the feelings of the community by their attempts at surveying, notwithstanding the protest of the people, there was hardly any authoritative rule or Local Government except the will and the determination of the settlers themselves.

" When the settlers heard that Mr. McDougall, their future Lieutenant Governor, was on his way with his suite accompanying him to their settlement, they determined to oppose his entrance after their ways and habits of resisting invasions from the Indians.

" To meet the difficulties and to do away with the irritation, Governor McTavish assisted by his Council, in his letter to Mr. McDougall, of 30th October, 1869, strongly advised

" Mr. McDougall to remain at Pembina, and not enter the Red River Territory. In his letter, Governor McTavish mentions that Mr. McDougall had even been cautioned previously by Col. Dennis to remain at Pembina.

" Col. Dennis in a letter of the 27th October, 1869, mentioned not only the opposition of the French half-breeds to Mr. McDougall's entrance into the territory, but

" also the unwillingness of the English and Scotch half-breeds, in case of an appeal to arms being made to them, to join in a conflict against the

" French half-breeds, as they would see in that proceeding the certainty of a war with religion and nationality, the termination of which could then hardly be seen.

" The English and Scotch half-breeds appear, in the letter of Col. Dennis, to have among other things stated: ' We feel this way; we feel confidence in the future ad-

" ministration of the Government of this country under Canadian rule; at the same time, we have not been consulted in any way as a people in entering the Dominion.'

" This reference is made to shew that among the half-breeds of all creeds and races, there was among a portion of them an objection to Mr. McDougall's entrance into the territory, and among the remainder a want of readiness of action to aid his entry into that territory.

" The undersigned now comes to the consideration of the circumstances which took place in the beginning of the month of December, 1869, and which may explain the increase of the irritated feelings amongst the settlers of all creeds and origins.

" There is first the proclamation of Mr. McDougall, of the 1st December, 1869, issued without authority, as in fact he was not Lieutenant-Governor, and the illegal and, to say

" the least of it, the extraordinary commission given by Mr. McDougall to Col. Dennis as Lieutenant and Conservator of the Peace in the North-

" West Territories, *to raise, organize, arm and equip and provision a sufficient force within the said Territories for warlike purposes against the settlers.*

Paper A.  
p. p. 23-24.

Paper A.  
p. p. 11-12.

Paper A.  
p. 11.

Paper A., p. 163.

Paper A.  
p. p. 164-5.

" There is no doubt that the language and terms of Mr. McDougall's commission to Col. Dennis, so soon as that proclamation became known to the settlers, must of themselves have provoked the half-breeds and have extremely irritated their feelings.

" Besides that commission itself there are the doings of Col. Dennis hereafter alluded to, also of Major Boulton and other Canadians, assisted by Dr. Schultz and a few settlers from Upper Canada, who did all in their power to raise a force composed mainly of Canadians, as it would appear by their proceedings, to fight the French half-breeds. An enrolment of about sixty or seventy Canadians, principally from Upper Canada was the result of Col. Dennis' and Major Boulton's efforts. Appeals were made by Col. Dennis and some other Canadians to the English and Scotch half-breeds, to join them

" in the struggle against the French half-breeds; but they would not be induced to join the Canadians. This would appear in two letters of December 9th, 1869, from Col. Dennis to Mr. McDougall, and in another letter of the 8th December, 1869, addressed to the same but without the signature of the writer (presumed to have been either Mr.

" Snow or Mr. Mair).

Paper A., P. 96. " Amongst other things said by him, Col. Dennis, in the former of his letters of the 9th December, expresses himself as follows:—'It is a matter of sincere regret to me to be obliged to express the opinion deliberately given, that as a body, the English speaking portion of the Red River Settlement proper, in their present frame of mind, cannot be counted on in any measures of aggressive character, which may be necessary to put down the French party now in arms against the Government, and in the other he says 'I think they would do anything, many of them, rather than offend the French now' (as they say) they see 'list of rights that the French ask nothing very unreasonable.'

" In the letter without signature, the writer expresses himself thus 'I tried my best to get a force formidable enough to assist in carrying out Col. Dennis' orders, but I fear the whole scheme will be a failure. Even among our English-speaking population we have to contend with worse characters than the French half-breeds, which I am sorry to inform you, but nevertheless too true.'

" The Scotch settlement will not join us, or any other parish of the Protestant population, so that it would be the height of folly for us to take any aggressive steps, for we would be overpowered by numbers. We have in these two parishes all the disadvantage, both in numbers and arms.'

" These extracts shew beyond doubt, that if the French half breeds were more active in the movement, the English and Scotch half-breeds would not oppose them.

" Col. Dennis, in his Report, dated December 8th, 1869, states that Bishop McCrea,

Paper A., p. 113. " Archdeacon McLean and some others in the settlement, begged that no aggressive action should be taken."

" Col. Dennis, in a memorandum of Orders to the enrolled Canadians, of the 4th December, 1869, ordered the Canadians to withdraw from the village and to go down to the Scotch settlement, where he would meet them and establish them in defensible quarters.

" In another memorandum of the 6th December, 1869, Col. Dennis reiterates, in effect, the same orders to the enrolled Canadians, and eventually in his

119. Paper A., P-P. " letter of 9th December, 1869, he ended by calling on the people to cease from further action under the appeal to arms made by him.

122, 123. " In the midst of the excited state of the feelings amongst the settlers, Col. Dennis had to flee from the settlement, leaving, as it would appear, the enrolled Canadians behind him, and the result of his proceeding was the imprisonment of a certain number of those Canadians who had enrolled to serve under his orders. Any one may well imagine what amount of provocation the doings of Col. Dennis and his proceedings must have caused amongst the settlers, and the violence of feeling they must have engendered amongst the settlers against the so-called Canadians or Canadian party. During all this time Col. Dennis and his party were preparing for war on their own

"account, not being authorized to do so by any lawful governing authority in the settlement, and were viewed and considered by the settlers as invaders, in the same light as invading Indians would have been considered if they had invaded the settlement.

"It is well here to refer Your Excellency to a commission given by Col. Dennis on the 16th December, 1869, before he left Pembina, to one Joseph Monkman, an Indian of the Red River settlement; the object of which commission was to give a pretended authority to Mr. Monkman to induce certain tribes of Indians to join in a deadly war against the French half-breeds at Red River. The language of that commission is of such an extraordinary character that it was thought proper not to have it printed among the 'correspondence and papers' designated as paper A.

"It was only a few days ago that the original of that commission was obtained from the Indian, Monkman. It is to be hoped that he has not shewn it to many people. A copy of it accompanies this memorandum as a part of the proceedings connected with the disturbances at Red River.

"We come now to the most unfortunate and most deplorable unauthorized movement by the attempt at again raising war, by Major Boulton and his party, against the settlers in February last, which ended in the capture of Major Boulton and several of his followers, and the recapture of the unfortunate Scott who had been captured formerly and afterwards released.

"Mr. Smith, in his report, qualifies that movement as the most unfortunate one, and states that the movement was discountenanced by the great majority of the English and Scotch settlers, who bitterly complained of those who had set it on foot, and that the attempt was to be deplored as it resulted in placing the whole settlement at the feet of Riel.

"The unauthorized Major Boulton movement placed the community of settlers of all creeds and races, and Riel in particular, in a very difficult position. That additional movement, of a nature of warlike invasion in the Red River settlement must have increased, in an immense degree, the violence of feelings of the majority of the community and of Riel himself as a matter of course.

"Riel and his co-associates in their extreme desire to protect the community of Red River against the further invasion of their territory by the unauthorized movements of Canadians must, very likely, have become excited to madness and under their over-excited feeling, come to the conclusion that some of the so-called Canadian invaders should perish as an example of warning to any temerary invader according to their own appreciation.

"Major Boulton seems, by the report of Mr. Smith, to have been himself the intended victim, but he was pardoned and released by Riel, and the fatal blow in the end was determined to fall on the poor, unfortunate Scott, who was, notwithstanding representations and remonstrances, so cruelly shot under a sentence of a pretended court-martial. It would seem, by the events which transpired before the shooting of poor Scott, that Riel was appealed to by several parties for the saving of Scott's life, as the man possessing the power to do so. It is certain that *nothing but appeals* to Riel were resorted to, to save the poor man's life, as if nothing else at that time could have been tried to save poor Scott. Riel must have been under the delusive conviction, that, in ordering the shooting of Scott he was saving the community from future danger of invasion, and was meeting the feelings of the majority of the community. Since the perpetration of the awful deed of the shooting of Scott, that deed has been the subject matter of discussion in the Red River Settlement, and, as it appears by a number of the '*New Nation*,' (a newspaper published in the Territory,) of the 13th May last, accompanying this memorandum, it would seem that some portion at least of the community does not view the perpetration of that deed with the horror of feeling with which it is received and considered in this country or in England.

"It seems, also, that Riel, since the perpetration of the dreadful act, has apparently continued to enjoy the confidence of the majority of the community as a political

“ leader, and that that confidence does not appear to have been shaken by the course he adopted with regard to the shooting of Scott.

“ It is very difficult, in a state of great political excitement, to foresee and appreciate the deeds of violence which are the consequence of it.

“ As an example of such a state of feelings, the undersigned would refer Your Excellency to the proceedings of an assembly which took place in Toronto, on the occasion of the arrival of Father Ritchot and Alfred Scott, Esquire, two of the delegates from the Red River to Your Excellency, at which assembly it is reported to have been expressed by some one that they ought to be *lynched*; and no one can say what would have been the consequences at the time of that meeting, if Father Ritchot and Mr. Scott had been found in Toronto. When such expression of violent feeling is reported to have taken place in a civilized city like Toronto, with a view to violent acts, it can be easily understood to what extent the feelings of the community, composed principally of half-breeds, not trained under the administration of criminal laws, and mainly governing themselves according to their habits of life and customs, can be excited even to the commission of violent deeds, under the pretence of self-protection and preservation.

“ After the above preliminaries, the undersigned can better appreciate in its true aspect the position of Riel and his co-actors in the shooting of the poor man Scott. There is not the least doubt that, in the eye and according to the letter of the English criminal law, Riel and his co-actors can be indicted not only for high treason, levying of war, and rebellion against Her Majesty, but also for the crime of murder of the unfortunate man Scott in furtherance of that rebellion. It is obvious, however, that Riel and his co-actors can be tried for these high crimes only before the ordinary tribunal and under the jury system now prevailing in the Red River Settlement.

“ By the Act of the Dominion Parliament, creating Manitoba into a Province, the criminal laws and the jury system for the trying of offences are in no way altered. No one would think that they ought to be, or could be, brought before any tribunal in Upper Canada, under the provisions of 43 George III., cap. 138, and 1st and 2nd George IV., cap. 66; for even under such proceeding, if to some extent possible, it would be considered monstrous to remove accused parties for trial from the ordinary jurisdiction of their own tribunal and jurymen selected from the community to which they belong.

“ The undersigned takes it for granted that if Riel and his co-actors were tried for the crimes above mentioned, they must be tried before the ordinary legal criminal tribunal, existing at Red River, and before jurymen selected from the people thereof, according to the laws and rules there existing.

“ Now, supposing that Riel and his co-actors were to be indicted and tried in Red River for the above criminal offences, could a verdict of guilty be obtained under all the circumstances and facts and events which have transpired in the settlement of Red River during the last seven months? Riel and his co-actors would, as a matter of course, adopt as a line of defence, that with regard to the charge of high treason, levying of war, and rebellion, they never intended to depose Her Majesty from Her rule in the Red River Territory; nor did they ever intend to levy war or to rebel against Her Majesty. They would contend that all they did was merely to effect the organization of some temporary local government to protect the lives and property of the settlers of Red River in the absence of any actual local government organized by Her Majesty, with the view to resist unauthorized invasions and attempts at war against them. Without alluding to the irritation of feelings caused by the surveying parties at the outset, they would contend that if their proceedings have been illegal they were less so:

“ 1st, than the proceedings of Mr. McDougall, who in fact usurped the rights, privileges, and powers of Lieutenant Governor of the territory when he was not such; who issued an illegal proclamation without authority, and the extraordinary commission to Colonel Dennis, under the pretended authority of which that gentleman gave to the



" Indian, Monkman, a commission to induce Indians to wage war against the settlement of Red River in every possible way ;

" 2nd, than the proceedings of Colonel Dennis and his co-actors in having organized without any authority the first movement and the first band of Canadian immigrants to wage war against the settlers of Red River and to invade their territory ;

" 3rd, than the proceedings of Major Boulton and his co-actors in organizing the second movement and the second band of Canadian immigrants to wage war against the settlers of Red River and to invade their territory.

" Against the charge of rebellion they would refer,—

" 1st, To the declaration of the 8th December, signed by John Bruce, as President, and Louis Riel as Secretary, in which document it is stated that their intentions were to resist the authority of Canada and not that of Her Majesty, and that they protested against Canada imposing on them a despotic form of Government, *contrary to their rights and interest as British subjects*, and in which it is stated also that they were willing and ready to enter into such negotiations with the Canadian Government as might be favorable for the good government and prosperity of the people.

" 2nd, To their sending of delegates when called on to do so by the Queen's authority and the Canadian Government, and to all the subsequent proceedings of the Provisional Government and the convention in the Settlement, during which it has been again and again expressed that their feelings, as well as the feelings of the settlers, were to join the Canadian Confederation, provided their rights and privileges were secured to them, and that there was no desire nor intention to withdraw themselves from allegiance to Her Majesty.

" They would contend also that the establishment of the Local Government had become a necessary thing, and that it became a Government *de facto*, inasmuch as the weak political Government of the Hudson's Bay Company received by the passing of the British North America Act, a blow which weakened it immensely, and in June received the last deadly blow by the unauthorized and illegal proclamation of Mr. McDougall, which proclamation, as a consequence, destroyed the good effect intended to be produced by Your Excellency's proclamation of 6th December, 1869. They would refer to the opinion of Governor McTavish, expressed in divers letters from him, with regard to the weakened and inefficient state of the political power of the Hudson's

" Bay Company, in consequence of the prospective transfer of the Territory to the Dominion of Canada, and the events which took place afterwards, and they would undoubtedly refer to his letter of 9th November, 1869.

" They would contend also that their local organization was based upon the habits of the community, and particularly with a view to protect themselves and to resist the invasion of the Canadians in the same manner as their fathers would have done to resist an invasion by the Indians, and according to the manner in which it took place and has been acted on in the settlement since the war of 1812, between the North-West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company.

" With regard to the charge of murder of the poor man Scott, in furtherance of their rebellion, they would contend that the deed was committed as a necessary thing to protect the community from further invasion by the Canadians ; that the Act was committed with the exercise of the local power of the *de facto* Government ; that they cannot be made individually responsible for it, as it was to some extent the act of the community, and that the responsibility of it, if it lies with them to any extent, would lie more on the illegal deeds and several unauthorized invasions of the Canadians, who, by their attempt at waging war against the settlers, provoked the regretted deed.

" The undersigned is inclined to think that Riel and his co-actors could not, under all the circumstances of the case, be found guilty in Red River, or even by a jury in England ; and that such being the case, it is a great matter of consideration if when peace has to be restored in the Red River Settlement, whether it would not be productive of a very bad effect, and tend to perpetuate a feeling of irritation if Riel and his



I regarded as one of my particular friends, on two or three different occasions, drawing his attention to that amnesty and the promise that I understood from the whole of the people had been made of an amnesty. In these letters I described the condition of the country, and urged strongly upon Sir George the necessity for an amnesty.

I received answers to several of these letters—I think to all of them. His answer was to request me to be sure that the amnesty would come. "*Soyez certain que l'amnésie viendra avant long temps.*" Tell your people to remain quiet and keep order.

I wrote to Sir George as well in my capacity of a Minister as the sole representative of the French element; and also as friend. I have not those answers from Sir George here; they are at Winnipeg. In these letters to me he remarked also when recommending quiet, that the enemies of the people would be gratified if they put themselves in the wrong by acting otherwise, and so deprive themselves of the benefit of their position. He desired me to tell them to adhere to their duty and that the amnesty would inevitably come.

I was then engaged in my election, and I made these communications very generally known among the people, as well in my county as elsewhere. I made extracts from these letters and circulated them among the people; and I consider that they had a powerful effect in calming the people, and preserving peace and good order. I think I can find these letters, and, if I can, I will transmit them to the Chairman.

On the day I was sworn in, a proclamation was issued by Governor Archibald, which I understood was prepared by the Government in Ottawa, and had come up ready for publication. That proclamation is published in the Parliamentary papers of 1871 of the Ottawa Parliament, and this proclamation I understood as being to a certain extent, a promulgation of amnesty, because it invited the whole people without any exception to behave as good subjects, and assist in maintaining order. At that time there were apprehensions of trouble in the Province. It was a few days after the death of Goulet, and there was a good deal of excitement.

I was charged as a Minister to cause the proclamation to be circulated as much as possible among the people, and to explain it to them.

The proclamation is published in Sessional Papers No. 5 of vol. 4, page 17. On or about the day of the publication of the proclamation I was at St. Norbert passing the night at the Curé's residence, and on the following day, which was Sunday, I met the people at the church door, and addressed them. I explained to them the proclamation. To my surprise I met Mr. Riel among the people. I had supposed that he was out of the country, and I felt my position as a new Minister a delicate one as regarded him.

He asked me to tell him, as a Minister of the Crown, if he was excluded or not by the Proclamation I have just referred to. I told him officially, "No, you are not excluded; and I would like to have a sufficient force to protect you. But for the sake of your country and your friends, absent yourself for a while from the country, and be sure, that as soon as the Government is strong enough to protect you, we will recall you, that you may take the place to which you are entitled." I meant his place either as Minister or Representative in the Government of his country.

When I used the phrase as to "sufficient force," I meant that we could not count on the military force that was there for that purpose, by reason of their feeling on that subject.

Riel went away immediately.

What I said to Riel I afterwards stated to the people there assembled.

The question of amnesty arose again on the organization of the Province, in reference to the appointment of Justices of the Peace and Legislative Councillors.

Some people were much opposed to the appointment of any who had taken any part in the troubles of 1869 and 1870; but finally a certain number of them were called and sworn, with the consent of all parties.

Mr. Dauphinais, who was a member of Riel's Provisional Government, and was known to have been such by the authorities, was appointed Legislative Councillor. John Bruce, who was the first President of the Provisional Government, and was known to have been such by the authorities, was appointed a Justice of the Peace.

Pierre Delorme, who was I believe, a member of the Council under the Provisional Government, and was known to have been such, was appointed a Justice of the Peace.

He is the same person who was afterwards elected to the House of Commons for Prcvencher, and who is now a member of the North-West Council, named by the Canadian Government, and also a member of the Local Assembly.

Maxime Lepine, who, I believe, was a member of the Council under the Provisional Government, and who was known to be such by the authorities, and who took an active part in the insurrection, was appointed a Justice of the Peace.

Immediately after my meeting at St. Norbert with Riel and the people, I saw the Governor, to give an account of the affair.

I told him what had passed. He neither approved nor disapproved of what I had done. As to my meeting Riel, he said that was of no consequence, referring to some attacks which had been made on me for having shaken hands with him.

I recollect the Fenian raid. I was then in the Government. I remember the arrival near the fort of the body of Metis numbering perhaps 400 or 500, perhaps one-third mounted and the rest dismounted. The greater part were armed. Riel, Lepine and Parenteau appeared to be jointly in command of them. These three seemed to be on an equal footing.

I informed the Lieutenant-Governor of their arrival, at the request of Mr. Royal, then Speaker of the Assembly.

I told him that the Metis wanted to meet him either in the fort or on the other side of the river. I told him that Riel and his friends were there. He consulted me whether it would be better to meet them in the fort or on the river. I recommended him to see them at the river. He agreed. We crossed the river; I in a rowboat; the Governor in a scow on horseback, accompanied by Captain Macdonald I think. We came close to them, and I then said to the Governor that these men were ready to go to the front to defend their country; thereupon the Governor spoke to them saying, that he received their offer and had much satisfaction in meeting them.

Afterwards there was a sort of salute fired, and cheering on both sides of the river.

Afterwards he went with me among the crowd at the river and I, Royal and Dubuc, introduced him to the prominent men, amongst whom was Riel. I introduced Riel as the man whom the half-breeds had chosen as their chief for the occasion. I thought it would be better not to give the name of Riel to the Governor. This had occurred to my own mind on the way across the river. It had not in any way been discussed.

I supposed he understood it was Riel.

Governor Archibald shook hands with Riel when introduced to him in the way I have described.

Mr. Dubuc introduced Ambroise Lepine by his name as a prominent man and the Governor also shook hands with him.

Parenteau was also introduced by name, and the Governor shook hands with him.

Riel was the first introduced.

After the introductions, Riel addressed the Governor publicly saying that he was there with his friends to offer their services in defence of the country against all enemies, and asking the Governor to accept their services.

The Governor thanked him very warmly for that offer of service, and told him it was received with much pleasure.

After I had been made a Senator, I saw Sir John A. Macdonald in the Sessions of 1872 and 1873 on the subject of the North-West. I was insisting on the promulgation of an amnesty by telling him that the Province would not improve as long as that question was unsettled. He did not deny to me the promise of an amnesty.

He said to me that very likely something would be done; that he was as anxious as I was to be rid of the question; and the last time I saw him he said he was going to England, and that we would have a chance to see that question settled.

I mentioned these conversations to some of the more prominent local men.

M. A. GIRARD.

COMMITTEE ROOM,  
20th May, 1874.

Benjamin Sulte being examined deposed as follows :—

I have been a clerk in the Department of Militia since May, 1870.

I knew nothing personally of the causes of the troubles, or of the causes which have delayed the issue of the amnesty promised in the proclamation of the 6th December, 1869.

In January, 1870, I was employed in the Translator's Office in the House of Commons. I was personally acquainted with Sir George Cartier. I received a letter in January, 1870, from a friend in Montreal. Mr. Eustache Prudhomme, enclosing a letter from Mr. Riel, addressed to him. I communicated both to Sir George. The letter of Mr. Riel was mainly a protest against some newspaper articles alleging that he was a rebel, an annexationist, &c. Riel alleged that he only resisted in order to have a fair arrangement of the conditions of union with Canada.

During the winter I received in the same way farther letters of Riel, and I communicated them, or extracts from them, to Sir George. They were in the same sense as that which I have already described.

Sir George and I had many conversations, growing out of the communication of these letters. I remember nothing of importance till the 19th May, between which time and the 25th May, 1870, there were constant interviews between Father Ritchot and Sir George. Sometimes five or six in a day. In fact this was almost his sole business at that time.

I was acting as Sir George's private secretary at this time, and as such remained in the room during these interviews or most of them.

It was on this 19th May that I commenced acting as private secretary for Sir George.

From that time there were no conversations between us in the relation which had formerly existed as hereinbefore described.

During these interviews with Father Ritchot, at which I was present, Sir George repeatedly assured Father Ritchot that his people would not be troubled in reference to what had taken place in the North-West. One day Father Ritchot said, "As I do not understand English very well, I am not satisfied with what His Excellency said to me at our interview." On that, Sir George replied, "That he need not fear anything for there could not be no ambiguity, and that His Excellency and the Ministry would take such steps as to protect them from any annoyance for the acts of the past."

Upon another day Father Ritchot spoke about a petition, that was I understood then being prepared, asking Her Majesty to grant a general amnesty, and he asked Sir George if he would support the petition by a document signed by himself: to which Sir George replied that he would. Father Ritchot then said to Sir George, that he might make his representations to the Imperial authorities in such manner, and in such form as he thought proper; but one point must not be forgotten: that a general amnesty, including every one, both of those who were known to have taken part in the insurrection, and those who turned out in arms against them.

When Father Ritchot left Ottawa, he expressed himself to me that he was satisfied an amnesty would be granted to all concerned in the North-West troubles.

BENJAMIN SULTE.

COMMITTEE ROOM,  
20th May, 1874.

L. F. R. Masson, Esq., M.P., examined, deposed as follows :—

I know nothing on the first two points in the reference.

During the spring session of 1873 I saw Father Ritchot here; he complained that the amnesty promised to him had not yet been granted, and asked me to interest myself in obtaining a speedy solution of that question.

I saw him several times and he shewed me certain papers, including his appointment as a delegate, a draft of the produced letter from him to Sir George, of 18th May, and Sir George's answer, and a petition he had presented to Lord Lisgar. I had interviews on the subject with Mr. Langevin, during which I thought I saw that he knew little relating to the matter contained in these papers.

About 20th March, 1873, I had an interview with Sir John Macdonald, in which I told him that both the Archbishop and Father Ritchot affirmed that an amnesty had been promised, and that they were led to understand, both by himself and Sir George, that they would lend their good offices in obtaining the amnesty. Sir John did not answer in words, though his manner conveyed to me the impression that he did not assent to this statement.

I am thus led to add the statement that I thought a great many would believe the Archbishop and Father Ritchot as their version was reasonable.

That the public would see that the Archbishop was our commissioner, that the Government had had confidence in him, and that he might rest assured that many would be disposed to bestow upon him the same confidence.

As to Father Ritchot, I told him that he would be believed by many, because the public knew that he had been received as delegate from the Provisional Government, and that it would be only natural to suppose that if he had asked for the amnesty the Government could not have reasonably refused it, and continued to deal with him as such delegate.

Sir John then denied that he had ever received the delegates as delegates from the Provisional Government.

I shewed him or spoke to him of the documents of appointment which I had been informed had been laid before the Government.

Sir John denied that they had even been laid before the Government, and asserted that the delegates had been received only as delegates of the people. I thereupon asked him what were their credentials. He replied, "There must be other papers," and we dropped that part of the affair.

I then told him of the petition of Ritchot and Scott addressed to the Queen. Sir John said there must have been an extraordinary misunderstanding, and it must be accounted for by the fact that Father Ritchot did not understand the English language.

I told him that I thought he would at any rate understand Sir George Cartier; thereupon Sir John said that I myself was, he thought, under a false impression, and that he would give me proofs of it, and he then read to me a letter from Sir George Cartier to himself, to the purport of one of these produced by Sir John in his examination. He added that he would show me other letters from men of honor, in the same sense, and he read me a letter from Lord Lisgar, which, I believe, contained the statement that it was here that the delegates had spoken of the amnesty, but that they had been told that the question would not be entertained.

He told me he had also a letter from Sir Clinton Murdoch to the same effect, which he tried unsuccessfully to find, and told me he would communicate to me later. I told Sir John that I felt the weight of these letters, but that notwithstanding, I thought the word of the Archbishop and Father Ritchot would also have great weight, and that many would believe that that they had been outwitted, which would be deplorable.

Sir John, for himself, then denied that he had promised the amnesty or that he had promised to do his best to obtain the amnesty, and to this he has always adhered.

We then passed to the question of the advisability of granting an amnesty, and this

was discussed at some length, but there was not at this conversation any formal declaration of Sir John that he would take up the question. Sir John pointed out the diversity of feeling which existed in the country on the subject, and the consequent difficulty in dealing with the subject. I suggested to him that he should make use of Sir George Cartier who was in England and could influence the Imperial Government, but he did not give any distinct answer though he seemed to think the suggestion a good one.

The next interview of any importance I had was about 29th April, 1873, with Sir John and Mr. Langevin and Father Ritchot; I went at the request of Father Ritchot; Sir John sent for Mr. Langevin.

The question chiefly discussed was as to the promises of Lord Lisgar and Sir Clinton Murdoch.

Sir John pointed out the denials of these gentlemen. The question as to the capacity in which the delegates were received was also raised. Sir John stated that he had not received them as delegates of the Provisional Government. Father Ritchot asked me what it was that Sir John said. I told Father Ritchot, who at once said, interrogatively, "You told me that?" Sir John answered, "Oh, no; I said that to my friends or to others." I confirm Father Ritchot's evidence on this point.

About 10th May, having received a letter from Father Ritchot, remonstrating urgently against the conduct of the Government, and declaring that he was determined to have the whole thing made public, I saw Sir John, and informed him then, as I had informed him before, that unless something was done Father Ritchot would take this action. After a long conversation, Sir John requested me to assure Father Ritchot that the question of amnesty would be settled to his entire satisfaction before his departure from Ottawa, and asked me to advise him to remain here after the Session, that he would then see to the matter. He moreover told me to use all my endeavor with Father Ritchot to persuade him to be patient meanwhile, and to use whatever influence I might have with him to remain in Ottawa, and not press the question at that moment.

I told Sir John that I did not like to take that responsibility, which I thought would be serious.

He said to me this, "Masson, I tell you you can take it." I thereupon stated I would take the responsibility on that assurance.

I advised Father Ritchot accordingly, and he acted accordingly.

Nothing more passed during the Session. Father Ritchot, I believe, remained, as Sir John had requested, until after the close of the Session, and I left Ottawa at its close, or a day or two before.

I had no further communication with Sir John on the question of amnesty until the fall session of 1873. I was officially asked to join the Administration in September, 1873. The question of the North-West affairs had something to do with my refusal. I answered the request in writing, at the end of September, to this effect, that I had held strong opinions on some questions which I thought of great importance, and that in the unsettled state of the questions, I felt that my presence in the Government would be a source of embarrassment and not of strength, and would not be at that time of advantage to the country, and I respectfully declined.

I did not particularize the questions referred to, but in fact they were the New Brunswick School question and the amnesty.

In the whole course of the negotiations I had no discussion with Sir John on the question of amnesty.

I had not, in the course of the negotiations, any discussion with Mr. Langevin on this subject save at the first interview, which took place on the occasion of Sir George's funeral, on 14th June, when, on first approaching me as to my entering the Cabinet, in response to my statement that I could not take the responsibility of helping to conduct the affairs of the country unless the amnesty was granted, he told me that on that score there was no difficulty; that the amnesty was a settled affair; that it would be granted either before or immediately after the next Session; that the Government would take hold of it. He told me that we would have to talk over the matter again with Sir John.

The question of amnesty was not further discussed, nor was any allusion made to my entering the Cabinet until the middle of September, when Mr. Langevin gave me a note from Sir John, asking me to join the Government, and talk the matter over with Mr. Langevin. Other complications in the North-West having some time after occurred—I allude to Riel's election, and his attempted arrest, and the legal proceedings against him—and these and all other considerations made me feel that my presence in the Government would not be satisfactory to myself or useful to the country, and I preferred maintaining an independent position in the House.

I did not discuss the question of amnesty with Mr. Langevin after receiving Sir John's note. That point was already understood between us as I have related. In the fall session of 1873 I had several interviews with Mr. Langevin; I told him that the crisis had arrived, and it was time for the Government to act. I told him I am the cause that the question had not been pushed the previous session, and that the people in Manitoba might feel that I had abandoned the cause, and as the Archbishop and Father Ritchot were determined to press the decision of the question immediately, I thought myself bound in honor to support them in their endeavors, as I might be considered responsible for their not having obtained justice sooner.

I then told Mr. Langevin that I could not continue to support the Government unless the question was settled.

Thereupon there were meetings of the French supporters of the Government, at which Mr. Langevin was present.

At the first there was little said by him, save the assurance of his own good will to that cause.

About the time of the second meeting, I think before it took place, I had an interview with Sir John in Mr. Langevin's presence, when I told Sir John that I found myself in duty bound so far from entering his administration as to declare to him that I would not continue to give the Government the same support I had formerly done, if I had not some assurance which could be given to the parties interested, that the amnesty would be shortly asked by the Canadian Government of the Imperial Government. Sir John then told me, "Masson, not only will you not go into opposition, but you will 'before long be one of us,' (meaning the Ministers.)"

The interview was extremely short.

At the second meeting of the French supporters of the Government, Mr. Langevin said that he was authorized by Sir John Macdonald to say that he (Sir John) was going to England, and would settle the question in the sense of an amnesty. This is my recollection of what took place, though I cannot be absolutely certain. Langevin added that if this was not done he would resign, substantially on the terms he has used in his examination.

Subsequently I had conversations with Sir John and also with Langevin, and each of these gentlemen in these conversations informed me that Sir John was going to England, and that they would recommend the settling of the question in the sense of an amnesty, and in fact it was beyond doubt from what each of them said, that this was to be the line of action.

L. F. R. MASSON.



COMMITTEE ROOM,  
21st May, 1874.

Joseph James Hargrave being examined, deposed as follows:—

I went to the Red River country in 1861, and have resided there ever since at Fort Garry.

I came out as a clerk in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, and my special work was to act as Secretary to Governor Dallas; afterwards to Governor McTavish, and from time to time for Mr. D. A. Smith when Governor.

I believe that the Red River troubles were in the most general sense attributable to the anticipation of the union with Canada, which was thought to be adverse to the interests of the French half-breeds; and to the fact that the Government of the Hudson's Bay Company after a long period of growing weakness was at last moribund.

The power which kept the movement together was the power of the priesthood; but for which the component elements would probably have become separated.

The half-breeds were afraid of the change and dreaded that the influx of population would drive them west.

The country had from time to time since 1863 been in a very disturbed position.

Gaol-breakings had occurred, and to this day nothing has been done to punish the guilty parties.

No notice being taken of such serious matters a feeling of lawlessness grew up, and the authorities themselves became I think impressed with a feeling of their inability to carry out the law in case they were at any time opposed by any important section of the community.

There were a number of emigrants from Canada settled among the half-breeds, forming a floating population which used language towards the half-breeds highly calculated to disquiet them, leading them to understand that their time in the territory was at an end.

The mind of the population had got thus into a state of excitement, and I am for these reasons inclined to the belief that even apart from the priestly element to which I have referred, there would have been some disturbance.

The half-breeds regarded the country to a great extent as theirs; and in this view of their right they stopped the surveys even where these were going on in places beyond the two-miles limit.

I think there was no apprehension in the minds of the half-breeds as to the two-miles limit, but I think they had a strong apprehension with reference to the lands outside these limits, and to this feeling the disturbance was I think largely due.

They objected to the whole survey. There were also many irregular acts on the part of those engaged on the works, and these evoked much feeling. Some persons laid claim, and attempted to take possession by ploughing round them, of large tracts of land claimed by the old settlers.

I produce extracts from a letter from the late Governor McTavish to the Secretary of State, dated 14th May, 1870, which I have reason to believe was never delivered owing to the Governor's death, but which contains under his hand some statements as to the causes of the troubles.

I also produce extracts from a letter in my custody, from Judge Black to Mr. Smith bearing on the causes of the troubles.\*

I believe that had Governor McTavish been in such health that he could leave his house, he would, in spite of everything, have been able so to exert his influence as to break up the affair.

It was the intention of Governor McTavish to go up to bring in Mr. McDougall, and it was the state of his health that prevented this.

There was a wide spread feeling of discontent because the territory had been transferred without any communication with the people.

\* The Committee upon examination of the two above named documents or letters decided not to admit them as evidence, they not bearing sufficiently upon the subject matter referred to the committee.

This was a feeling which existed more especially among the French, though it was shared in a very minor degree by the English. Still the English were dissatisfied because of the unceremonious nature of the transaction.

The result in my opinion was, that the English would have remained passive; not taking up arms for the Canadians or for the French either.

J. J. HARGRAVE.

COMMITTEE ROOM,

21st May, 1874.

John Stoughton Dennis being examined, deposed as follows:—

I arrived on 20th August, 1869, at Red River, in charge of the intended surveys, to take place under the direction of the Government of Canada; and it was part of my duty to report on the best place of survey.

I have little doubt that the primary causes of the outbreak were an unsettled feeling in the minds of the people as to the form of government that was likely to be established, and a general fear and anxiety that their interests might be sacrificed, inasmuch as there had been no previous communication with them with a view to ascertaining the exact political situation and forming a system of government appropriate to the country. The French half-breeds were evidently jealous of the action of the Hudson's Bay Company with regard to the transfer of the territory, and they protested against any transfer of the territory unless they shared in the payment.

This feeling was participated in to a certain extent by the other classes of the inhabitants, namely, the English half-breeds and the Canadian settlers.

Before I reached the territory I was told there was an uneasy feeling. I at once mixed with the people in the course of my duty, and within the first fortnight I learned from my interviews with the people the condition of feeling I have described.

I have nothing further to add to this statement relative to the causes of the outbreak or the circumstances connected therewith, beyond what may be found in the Sessional Papers of 1870, excepting this, that about the 1st day of October, 1869, I was waited upon at my office in Winnipeg by a gentleman who announced himself as Mr. Riel, who stated that he had come to see me, as representing the Canadian Government, to know what were their intentions with regard to the extinction of the Indian title, and the disposition of the lands occupied by the settlers. He said that having some education, his brethren the French half-breeds who were in a state of great excitement, being in ignorance of what was going to be done with the country, had requested him to see me, and obtain explanations, I told him I was glad to see him especially upon that mission, and explained to him thoroughly that the people need be under no misapprehension whatever as to their being deprived of their lands, that the intention of the Canadian Government was to survey all the lands occupied and to give the parties in possession of lands Crown Deeds free, and that steps would be taken almost immediately to extinguish the Indian title to the lands upon equitable terms. This policy I had been authorized and instructed to make public, on my arrival in the settlement, and I so told Mr. Riel. He expressed himself pleased and satisfied, and said it would be his duty and pleasure to make it known to his people. I thanked him for the straight forward course he had taken in coming to me for information, and he took his leave.

He did not, however, act in accordance with the promises made to me, as Mr. John McTavish informed me on the Sunday afternoon following my interview with Riel, that he (Riel) had been haranguing the people at the church door in St. Boniface, that forenoon, inviting them to organize and prevent the Canadian Government coming in until their just claims were recognized and settled. The following week Riel stopped the surveying party from proceeding with their work.

I am not aware of any Canadians or others attempting to take up lands improperly, beyond the following: I was told by Dr. Schultz that a short time previous to my arrival in the country that he and Mr. Snow had staked out and bought from the Indians, lands

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at St. Anne's, Point de Chene, a mile square, which the French half-breeds laid claim to in some way. I do not know whether these lands were settled upon.

There were claims also staked out by Canadians and others on the Common in the vicinity of Winnipeg, claimed by the Hudson's Bay Company, and in the rear of the Village of Winnipeg on the Prairie.

Dr. Schultz asked me if I thought the lands thus acquired at St. Anne's, Point de Chene would be recognized by the Canadian Government, and I told him it was not a transaction the Government would recognize, and discountenanced any further proceedings in the matter.

Governor McTavish, although in a very critical state of health, did all in his power to dissuade the people from the course they were pursuing in connection with the outbreak by explaining to them the situation, assuring them their interests would be perfectly safe in the hands of the Canadian Government, and that they would be fairly dealt with. Dr. Cowan also took the same course.

I have no knowledge relative to the two last points in the reference.

J. S. DENNIS.

## APPENDIX.

### RETURN, AND SUPPLEMENTARY RETURNS

To an ADDRESS of the HOUSE OF COMMONS, dated 1st April, 1874;—For Copies of Proclamation dated on the 6th December, 1869, having reference to the difficulties which existed in the North-West in 1869-70, and of all Correspondence and Communications between the Dominion Government, the Government of the Province of Manitoba, and the Imperial Government, and all other Communications in the possession of the Government, having reference to the Amnesty mentioned in the said Proclamation.

By Command.

(Signed,) R. W. SCOTT,  
*Secretary of State.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

OTTAWA, 15th April, 1874.

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GOVERNOR'S SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
OTTAWA, 9th April, 1874.

SIR,—With reference to the copy of an Address from the House of Commons on the subject of the Red River Insurrection, referred to me from your Department on the 4th instant, with a request to be furnished with such of the information asked for as relates to this office, I have the honor to transmit herewith, copies of the despatches and other documents enumerated in the annexed schedule.

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

H. FLETCHER,  
Governor's Secretary.

The Hon. R. W. Scott, &c., &c.,  
Secretary of State.