NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

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The Ottawa Times

MONDAY, MAY 2, 1870.

☞ For interesting Reading Matter see Fifth Page; for Ottawa Markets see Fourth Page.

WORKMAN'S APPEAL FOR THE POOR AND NEEDY.

Nothing could have more suprised those who know Mr. Workman, member for Montreal Centre, as a shrewd, energetic business man, than the attitude which he has assumed in the matter of imposing taxes upon the necessaries of life, as he seems to consider coal and wheat. Had any member of the House of less information and of inferior shrewdness talked glibly about the unwarrantable cruelty of class legislation in its bearing upon the working man, we should not have at all alluded to the matter. In the mouth of such a man as Mr. Workman the nonsense is glaring. A tax on coal does not at all affect the price of coal to the poor man for the simple reason that no poor man burns coal. Coal is not the fuel of the workingman in any part of the Dominion, if the city of St. John, New Brunswick, be excepted. The price of wheat to either poor or rich is not affected by any tax that may be imposed upon wheat, the price of that commodity being determined by Mark Lane. The London wheat market makes bread in Canada either cheap or dear, no matter what the yield or what the tax. Mr. Workman knows this, and he, of all men, to set his face against a measure of the Government on the pretence of their policy increasing the price of bread is superlatively rich. The consumers of coal are the Montreal manufacturers of iron. A duty on coal will have its effect upon them. There, the reason of Mr. Workman's bunkum is transparent. Mr. Workman has a personal and therefore particular interest in the price of coal. He would not have that commodity made too dear to the iron manufacturer in the interest of the iron-monger. There is sense now in Mr. Workman's position. He was not speaking against the duty on wheat and coal in the interest of the poor man, but in the interest of Mr. Workman. This may not be very patriotic, but it is sensible. Mr. Workman deserves credit for this. There are other Montreal interests in coal, which it is necessary to protect, and these Mr. Workman would any day prefer to protect to Nova Scotia coal. Even taking it for granted that coal were an article of general consumption, how would it affect the poor man consumer? While it would assist in bringing in a small revenue to the country, the poor man would be quite unable with a tax, levied over so great a surface as four millions of people to make the discovery that he was taxed at all if Mr. Workman did not tell him. Indirectly he would contribute to the revenue, as he does now, on all that he eats and drinks and wears or uses, but he would not know that he was doing so, and would experience no wrong, if he should suffer any, which we deny. The tax on coal will have the effect of giving employment, and consequently an increased supply of bread to thousands of working men. It will encourage mining operations in Nova Scotia. It will increase wealth there, to be expended on the productions of Ontario, and produce wealth here. As for increasing the price even to our consumers the idea is absurd. Ships, from England, bring hither coal as ballast, and, it is so cheap as ballast, that instead of selling the coal for the benefit of the steamships and founderies, and such private gentlemen as burn it in grates, they actually throw it overboard at the ballast ground in the harbour of Quebec, where there is now as much coal as there is in Newcastle a circumstance which will, ages hence, should the bed of the St. Lawrence, by some natural convulsion, be turned, perfectly astonish the geologists, who are to come after us. So far from being a curse to the poor man, this tax on both coal and wheat will be of benefit to him. It will tend to lessen other taxes which he might more directly feel. English coal and American coal will contribute to the revenue and be paid for by the few for the benefit of the many. It will be precisely the same with the duty on wheat. That duty will be paid for by the people of England. Nobody in Canada will contribute one dime towards it. The Mark Lane speculators will pay the revenue of Canada so much on every bushel of wheat grown on our soil, and as Canada does not sell coal and does not use it, the poor man is very much less affected by these taxes than the merchants of Montreal, whose opposition to the tax is about as disinterested as that of Mr. Workman, who so ably represents them in the Parliament of Canada. That representative of Montreal interests had been humiliated because certain gentlemen had congratulated him on the removal of a tax which was not to be removed, and, therefore he went on, in his place in Parliament, raving and fuming like a madman, tearing his hair, and crying out at the top of his voice, "A silver half-dollar, a silver half-dollar, a silver half-dollar! I see it before me. I see it as as a tax upon the poor and needy!" Easy Mr. Workman. Do keep cool. Do not feed the flame of discord in the House any more, with the terrible cry about food and fuel. It will do well enough among the needy at your own gate. Not here. Leave such nonsense for the masses who do not think. For gracious sake do not indulge in such terrible stupidities from your place in the Commons House of Parliament of Canada.

THE RED RIVER ROVER RIEL.

There is an air of romance about the report of Mr. Donald A. Smith's mission to the Red River territory. Without the slightest impropriety, it might be termed "A Brief sojourn among the Red River Brigands." Riel, the Red River Rover—the leader of the Brigands,—was quite as arbitrary with Mr. Smith as he was only regally cognisant of the presence of the dignitaries of the church. He required from all and sundry, an oath of allegiance—allegiance to him and his Government. He even indignantly took offence at the word illegally as applied to his Government, and was only calmed down by the adroitness of that other brigand, Mr. O'Donohue, who signified to the Red Rover of the North west, that his provisional Government was illegal only in so far as that word had a signification to Mr. Smith. The crazy hero—Red Rover Riel—was nevertheless anxious about his position. He was afraid to trust anybody abroad and kept all equally under surveillance. Everybody, who came to Fort Garry he locked up. He was most particularly desirous to know what Canada thought of his proceedings and he longed for the papers of Mr. Smith. He did not believe in the affiand of the Grand Vicar Thibault and Colonel DeSalaberry, which was merely "to calm the French half-breeds." He expressed his anxiety to see the commission of Mr. Smith. The anxiety to see this document led to serious results and nearly to the death of Riel himself: it was on the very point of causing the death of "that fine man," Captain Boulton. His anxiety to achieve fame—his personal vanity—seems to have altogether contributed to the death of Scott—when asked by the Rev. Mr. Lestane "If there was no way to save that man," Riel smilingly replied "My Reverend Pere, you know how the matter stands." Riel, however, condescended to explain how matters stood. Scott had been treated with great clemency, considering that he was a prisoner, but had been insubordinate and defiant. It was necessary to teach submission and Scott was ordered to be shot. It is unnecessary to go over the graphic account of this "Sojourn among Brigands," however, submitted by Mr. Smith. That is sufficiently interesting and vastly instructive to obtain a careful reading. That which we desire to draw special attention to is the concluding portion of Mr. Smith's remarks and to the positive good which has been done by Bishop Tache since his arrival. "A large majority of the French party have no misgivings as to the union with Canada, and under the guidance of his Lordship, Bishop Tache, and other members of the clergy, who enjoy their confidence, they will shortly prove themselves to be staunch supporters of the Dominion." The brigand, Riel, however, has to be dealt with, and to insure and maintain submission a strong military force is necessary in the North West.

The Imperial Government are the parties who are to pay the cost of the expedition, and it is something more than probable that they will deal with Riel, O'Donohue, and Lepine, according to their deserts. To the others, the mere tools of these men, the utmost leniency will be extended. There is no desire for vengeance upon a misguided people, but there is an intention to do justice, and that intention will be carried into effect. The Postmaster Bannatyne, Sheriff McKenny, Deputy Sheriff Begg, and all the other ringleaders and officials of "the President" are already having the scene of their atrocities—going off as rats do from a sinking ship.

There is only one complaint anent "shin-plasters" in Montreal, and it is merely this, that there are not a sufficient number of them in circulation to meet the requirements of trade, and business men are, on that account, compelled to accept the American quarter at 24 cents as a circulating medium in making change. If there were lots of "shin-plasters," American silver, as a circulating medium, would soon altogether disappear.

Latest by Telegraph.

By People's Line.

QUEBEC.

Steamer "City of Quebec" Sunk by the S. S. "Germany"—Four Lives Lost.

Quebec, May 1, 9 p. m.

The Steamship *Germany* sank the steamer *City of Quebec* off Green Island. Four lives lost.

Quebec, April 30.

Sixteen boats for Red River were sent on by train to Collingwood to-day. They are fifty feet long and are provided with rigging and sails complete.

One hundred and fifty volunteers for Red River, were medically inspected this morning by Dr. Clark, of the 69th Regiment, and will be billeted this evening.

Col. Cassault has offered without any solicitation the position of Brigade Quartermaster in the expedition to Red River, to Quartermaster Charles E Hotten, of the Volunteer Garrison Artillery.

MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, April 30.

Instructions were received in Montreal from Ottawa, that the services of the volunteer militia stationed on the frontier, are no longer required.

A largely attended meeting of merchants and others, was held this afternoon in the Mechanics' Hall to protest against a measure now before Parliament, and by which it is intended to impose a duty upon wheat and coal. The speeches were all of them brief but expressive of a strong determination to oppose the measure, which was characterized as one likely to be exceedingly injurious, both economically and politically, should it become law.

Montreal Fire Brigade were this afternoon inspected by H. R. H. Prince Arthur. He was accompanied by Lady Young and suite.

The third of the mass meetings in reference to the silver nuisance was held last evening and was largely attended.

Carpets and House Furnishings made a speciality. The largest stock of New Goods, and lowest prices in the city at Garland, Hutchinor & Co.

Women seeing, the grand display of Millinery and Mantles, and the crowds of people admiring the Spring Fashions at Garland, Hutchinor & Co.

First of this season's Lettuce, Radishes, Rhubarb, &c., &c., at J. B. Buss & Co's, 31 Rideau street.

THE NORTH WEST.

Observations upon the Country. Suggestions as to the best means of access to Red River—A Narrow Gauge Railway—Steamboats—Telegraphs—A Submacustrine Cable—Indian Tribes and their Constitution—Responsible Government.

BY

SENATOR McCULLY.

A letter addressed to the Honourable Sir John A. Macdonald, K.C.B., Minister of Justice, Premier, &c., &c., &c.

SIR,—

The testimony of a number of witnesses recently examined before the Senate Select Committee, and which will presently be submitted to the public in pamphlet form—witnesses who have spoken from actual knowledge, and a shorter or longer residence in the Red River Country, some of them natives and farmers, others traders and doctors, one of them a Presbyterian Clergyman, and all men of experience and observation—this evidence will be found, I think, conclusive as to the value and excellence of the Country as an Emigrants' Home. The enquiries made by the several members of the Committee, many of them gentlemen thoroughly and practically acquainted with the climate, capabilities and resources of the finest and fairest portions of this Dominion, will be found to have called forth replies from the witnesses, which seem to cover the whole field. The Report, the result of this Committee's labours extended over several days, which will be invaluable as a kind of guide, to persons disposed to visit the Country either with a view of permanently residing there, or otherwise, will also, I am consistent, be perused by the public with very deep interest.

I am not saying too much, I am quite sure, when I affirm that there are but few portions of this Continent which hold out greater attractions for the new settler and for the emigrant, than the Red River and North West Territory, and under this description, I mean all the country north of the boundary line, west of the Lake of the Woods, including both banks of the Assiniboine, and the north and south banks and branches of the Saskatchewan River to the foot of the Rocky Mountains. The country east of the Lake of the Woods, and skirting the north bank of Rainy River, will probably be found to be arable and valuable, both for timber and for cultivation. It was so described by Sir George Simpson, and his account is confirmed by Mr. Monkman, one of the witnesses examined. But it is a wilderness of which little inland, at present, seems to be known.

The almost boundless expanse of prairie lying west of Point du Chene, interspersed as it is with clumps of trees of small growth, principally poplar and stinted oak,—this prairie produces, according to the testimonies of the witnesses examined, wherever it has been cultivated, a yield of wheat varying from twenty-five to fifty bushels and sometimes upwards, to one, and that averaging from sixty to sixty-five pounds to the bushel! No destructive fly or weevil seems as yet to have found its way to the country. Mr. Monkman, a farmer himself, residing at the Indian Settlement, on the lower part of Red River, sowed in 1869, fifty bushels of wheat brought from Fort Abercrombie, and had it not been that the season near harvesting time was damp, and the straw continued to grow till it attained a height of five feet or upwards, and was unable to support its weight, he would have had, according to his own estimation, at the rate of from thirty-five to forty from one! But thirty and thirty-five from one bushel sowing is not, it seems, a very uncommon thing at all at the Red River. And this from land cropped year after year without manure of any kind. The wheat crop of 1869, is equal to the requirements of two years.

Other cereals grow in like proportion on the prairies of the North West. Vegetables, such as beets, potatoes, carrots, and the like, are raised in great abundance, and the answers to enquiries were uniform by the witnesses, that they had tasted nothing deserving the name of potatoes since their arrival in Canada, as compared with the potatoes of Red River. And such a thing as potatoe blight has never been known there. Seed time for wheat commences about the middle of April, and August is the month of harvest. Steam flour mills have recently been introduced, and labour saving machines are fast making their way into the North West. Sterling is the money of the North West, and the sovereign and American half eagle count as in Nova Scotia, for five dollars; the English shilling being reckoned as a quarter or twenty-five cents, and the florin as fifty cents. In this matter the men of the west are clearly in advance of some of the Provinces lying east of them.

The rivers and lakes of the country are stocked with excellent fish, and the climate is salutorious. Land and water fowl are in great plenty. The swan and the white snlon goose frequent the rivers and lakes in abundance. The cold of winter is more intense than in Ontario, and the thermometer has been known to fall as low as forty-five below zero, but the air is so dry that the cold, by uniform testimony of witnesses, is not more intolerable, nor more sensible to the person, than the cold of Canada. No greater amount of clothing is required, there in winter than in many portions of the Dominion.

Proof positive is now before us that the horses of the Red River Settlement live out all winter without shelter, except as they find it for themselves on the prairies, and with only such herbage for food as they get from beneath the snow, a foot to eighteen inches in depth, and which they obtain by pawing them away from the wild grasses that grow luxuriantly and abound on the plains, and these animals in the spring are fat and fleshy. The horses required for daily use, it is true, are housed in winter, as are the horned cattle, but early in April all rush to the prairies to feed upon the mellowed fodder provided by nature, in preference to the hay harvested and housed for their support.

Day schools and Sunday schools exist in the various settlements, and good order and quiet seem to have prevailed up to the date of the recent disturbance. The present population scattered along the banks of the Red River and the Assiniboine for perhaps one hundred and twenty miles in all, is computed to be about twelve thousand, and one-half of this number, or a little more, are protestants, the remainder Roman Catholics. The protestants are divided into Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and Methodists. Each of these denominations has its place of worship. The Catholics are presided over by a Bishop, Monseigneur Tache of St. Boniface. They possess a cathedral, have a number of small chapels, schools of their own, and a collegiate institution of learning.

Such in brief is Red River. Such is the nucleus of the nation which at some future day will probably people the all but illimitable prairies that trend away to the base of the Rocky Mountains, and far down and along the Banks of the McKenzie River. And now the question most important of all suggests itself—how is the outside world to get access to this comparatively unoccupied, untenanted region, instinct as it is, with all that is necessary for human enjoyment, waiting only the presence of the husbandman and the artisan to cultivate fields, to erect forges, to build cities, and to expand an empire?

Fort Garry, at the confluence of the Assiniboine with the Red River, is distant 441 miles, according to Mr. Dawson, C.E., from Fort William, at the head of Lake Superior.

From Fort William to the navigable waters of the summit region, say Lac des Mille Lacs, is forty miles, and the rise from Superior 800 feet, or at the rate of twenty feet in the mile. It is not to be supposed that a uniform grade or anything approaching to it could be obtained over the intervening space which is described as rough and mountainous, but in view of what has been accomplished in Wales on the Festiniog and Fort Madoc Railway, with its gradients of *one in ninety two* its curves with a radius of *one and three quarter chains*, and its gauge of *two feet* in width, costing originally—in 1832 when the construction of railways was both new and expensive about thirteen thousand dollars per mile—why might there not be a railway laid down at once, over this short difficult section of country? It is true the Festiniog rail was originally but 30 lbs. to the yard, but a rail of 50 lbs., or still heavier, would not add materially to the expense of such a line.

I am informed there is plenty of timber in proximity to the site of the line of road proposed by Mr. Dawson, and in that case, if very cheap line, to last for many years, could be constructed by crossing gorges and ravines, with trellis work of wood, and at a trifling cost. Adapting to this narrow gauge the new double Eogle Engine of Mr. Fairlie, and the system of light waggons and low wheels, dispensing altogether with platforms, sided by a moderate amount of government encouragement, I feel pretty well assured, that a Company can be organized, who would undertake this railway immediately, and work it at their own risk.

For six months of the year, after navigation of Lake Superior closes, and until spring opened, there would be but little, if anything, to be done. Some few employees, would require to remain to look after the rolling stock during winter; but with the opening of each successive season, until some other means of access is afforded to Red River over British territory, the number of passengers, and the amount of goods forwarded by the line, would rapidly increase.

From Lac des Mille Lacs, the Western terminus of this railway, to the Western extremity of the Lake of the Woods, is 311 miles, and for the entire of this distance there is water communication. As far as Rainy Lake, the "intervening space, says Mr. Dawson," is so interrupted with lakes, numerous and large, that it would be difficult to say whether land or water predominates—the lakes, however, affording the means of making good water communication at moderate outlays—and from Fort Francis at the foot of Rainy Lake, to the northwest angle of Lake of the Woods, above mentioned, the navigation is uninterrupted, save a couple of small rapids easily overcome. From the northwest angle of Lake of the Woods to Fort Garry, the distance is 90 miles. Of this all but 35 miles is now an excellent waggon road, and before the season closes, this 35 miles, it may be reasonably expected, will be completed.

Assuming that such will be the case, I am assured on good authority, that with even the present appliances (the short section on Dog River, recently constructed, and that from Fort Garry eastward taken into consideration), the trip can be made from Fort William to Fort Garry, 441 miles, within fifteen days. The present road from the northwest angle of the Lake of the Woods to Fort Garry, is over a dead level country—say 90 miles—and a line of narrow gauge railway could be laid for little more than the expence of the ties and metal, and the laying of it down. Oak of the required size for ties is abundant, it seems, along this section of the country. Over the lower portions of the prairie, and the occasional swamps, some drainage, no doubt, would be required; but the expence of grading would otherwise be nominal. With sections of railway completed at each end of the road, 40 miles at the East, and 90 miles at the West—130 miles in all—with steamers traversing Rainy River, Rainy Lake, and the Lake of the Woods, the distance from Toronto to Fort Garry might be overcome in less than ten days; and I am much mistaken if within three years from this date, it be not found to be a matter of common occurrence.

In order, however, to encourage traffic by way of Lake Superior to Red River, the Government of Canada should, I think, among other things, hold out inducements to suitable persons to establish places of entertainment along the route—say from ten to twenty miles apart—having such accommodations as would be adapted to the necessities of travellers, and immigrants taking this route to Red River. Around these hotels and houses of entertainment, or many of them, small shops or trading posts would speedily spring up, and hunters and trappers Indians, half-breeds, and voyageurs, would come to exchange their furs and peltry, for supplies. At Fort William larger stores or warehouses would become indispensible and would soon be erected, from which supplies could be forwarded both summer and winter to the smaller traders inland.

The snows west of the watersheds at Lac des Mille Lacs, are not deeper, as a rule, than they are in Canada. The average depth of snow at Red River is from twelve to eighteen inches, so that communication, even in winter, could, and probably would, be kept up all along the route by parties travelling, at first with dog sleighs, and eventually with other and better appliances. What Fort Garry now is to Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec, less than half a century ago, Toronto and much of Ontario lying west of it was to Montreal and Quebec during the winter months. Indeed, before the era of railways in Canada, and within the recollection of persons of middle age, the isolation of Montreal and Quebec for three or four months of each year from Canada west, (and *vice versa*) was scarcel inferior to what a commercial emporium or a depot of merchandise at Fort William, would now be in relation to the Great North West.

The multitude of human beings which the great expanse of fertile territory in the North West is capable of supporting, the mighty stream of immigration which is certain to sweep across, and over and beyond Lake Superior, the moment easy access is afforded to the Assiniboine, Qu'Appelle and Saskatchwan Rivers, demand at the hands of Canada, its Government and Legislature prompt attention wise forethought and vigorous action.

To quell the disturbance and suppress the insurrection which have lately broken out at Red River, a military force, made up partly of regulars and partly of volunteers, is, it seems, in preparation, and at a very early day will move forward, via Lake Superior and the Lake of the Woods. Now, if the Government act wisely, this force, it seems to me, should be supplemented if possible with a telegraph line, commencing at Fort William, to be constructed towards Red River as fast as possible. And as timber for posts is in abundance along or near the line of route, it would be most satisfactory that the Government and public as well, should thus be kept informed by each successive steamer's arrival from the head of the Lake, of the progress and success of the expedition—and I may mention in this connection that a line of steamers ply between Collingwood and Fort William leaving each of those places on the 1st and every fifth succeeding days during the summer months, occupying some four days in making the passages backward and forward. Thus 3 times a fortnight intelligence will be had from Fort William, and it is hardly to be doubted that by employing *couriers du bois* a light mail for letters may be transmitted this present summer as rapidly, and more securely between Canada and the Red River than via St. Cloud and Pembina.

But in view of the prospective future of the North West, the vastness of the domain lying vacant there—the marts of commerce—the hum of industry—the broad acres under cultivation—so soon to displace the stillness of solitude, and the reserves of hunters and trappers, why should not immediate measures be adopted to put Fort Garry in telegraphic communication with the capital of Canada over British territory? There can be no doubt that, at a comparative small outlay, a line can be constructed from the Red River to Fort William, and this effected, the problem is solved. For a submacusirne cable could be laid without difficulty, down Superior and continued, to connect with the Canadian lines, putting the people of the North West in continuous uninterrupted communication with all parts of both continents. There can be no serious impediment to this, and then not only the ordinary business connected with the country and its growth would be transacted by the line, but the business of the Hudson's Bay Company in the farther forts, factories, and houses would contribute to its support.

I do not desire to ignore the project of reaching the Red River by a line of rail commencing on the lower St. Lawrence, stretching westward north of Lake Superior *via* Nepigon, and north of the Lake of the Woods. That is an undertaking which may, or may not be feasible, but one, if found to be feasible, which must necessarily occupy time. Great resources would be required to justify the commencement of so stupendous an undertaking. It may, nevertheless, be among the things to be accomplished in the future; but, what is immediately required is, some means of present and cheap access to these western prairies. The expense of conveying emigrants (finding their own board) from Toronto to Fort William, by rail to Collingwood, and thence by steamer, is guaranteed by Colonel Cumberland, Manager of the Northern Railway, not to exceed, during the season of navigation, *seven dollars*—what it will require to put them through from thence to Fort Garry, 441 miles, must depend upon the facilities to be afforded along the remainder of the line of route. Mr. Monkman, a native of Red River, well acquainted with the country, east of Winnipeg, as far as Lac des Milles Lacs, asserts that from Rainy Lake westward, to the north west angle of the Lake of the Woods, about 220 miles, with the exception of the Falls at the head of Rainy River, where small portage would be required, there is abundant water for steamboat navigation. This is but a corroboration of what S. J. Dawson, Esq., had previously stated.

I possess no material from which to estimate the cost of transporting emigrants across from Fort William to Fort Garry at present, but it might, I think, be reasonably supposed, that it could be done for twenty or thirty dollars, and that the time employed would not exceed twelve or fourteen days. But with a railway from Fort William, forty miles, steam navigation on the long reaches thence to the north west angle of Lake of the Woods, and a railway thence to Fort Garry, 90 miles, the whole distance should be done in three days, thus bringing Fort Garry within seven days' travel of Toronto. That this will be accomplished in a short time I entertain no doubt, and that telegraphic communication should be established forthwith between the capital of the North West, and Canada over British territory, seems to me not less an easy and practicable project than it is an inevitable necessity, if the country is to be consolidated with the Dominion of Canada.

As Chairman of the Committee of the Senate appointed to collect information on the North West Territory, sitting as the Committee did, for a week and upwards, with a short hand reporter rapidly recording the answers of a very intelligent class of witnesses, a report of which the Senate has ordered to be published, in pamphlet form—the foregoing are some of the reflections that have since been passing in my mind. I had previously entertained the idea that the moral and social features of the Red River country would be found much akin to those which prevail in the new and far off portions of the Western States. That revolvers and Bowie knives, and the rude manners which commonly obtain where civilization is in its infancy, would be found to be the normal condition of the North West. After hearing the testimony of the witnesses examined, and which will presently be thrown broad cast into all parts of Canada by means of the press, I confess to a most agreeable surprise and disappointment. Previous to this recent outbreak, Red River, although not exactly an Arcadian settlement,—for the rulers of the Hudson's Bay Company weighed disagreeably, if not heavily, upon the necks of the population,—yet the inhabitants of the various villages scattered along the banks of the Red River, and up the Assiniboine as far as Portage La Prairie, seem to have been in the enjoyment of almost every blessing that cultivation and social life affords, with an absence of many of the drawbacks inseparately connected with those class divisions and their consequences, which characterize the more advanced conditions of town and city life. The Catholic population, with their Bishop and his clergy superintending their religious affairs, were living, much as Longfellow describes it in the "Basin of Minas." The Protestant settlements, with their pastors and teachers, and all with their day schools and Sunday schools, their lands allotted in front, running back upon the Prairies to a common, without enclosures in rear, and even land marks,—presented a picture of primitive life not found elsewhere, perhaps at the present period of the world's history.

Before closing these observations there is a subject upon which it may not be out of place that I should offer a few remarks. It is the Indian aspect of the case to which I now refer. It was clearly made to appear before the Senate Committee by Mr. Monkman himself, a half-breed, his father being an Englishman, and his mother a native, (of the Cree tribe I believe) that the Indians of the North West expect of the Canadian Government proposals for a treaty before they assume the suzerainty of the country. Much as the Hudson's Bay Company may have done towards the protection of the various tribes with which their trade had brought them into contact, still it would seem as the better opinion that the natives consider them as intruders and trespassers upon their domain. The supposed compact entered into, by Lord Selkirk, with the Indians, rests upon very apocryphal testimony. The Right Honourable E. Ellis, M. P., himself a stockholder in the Company, on his examination before a Committee of the House of Commons, in 1857, to a question, "Whether he knew the amount of the compensation made by Lord Selkirk to the Indians," answered "No. I never heard that he made any, and I am inclined to think he would have made none, except that he wanted, at that time, to keep the Indians at peace. He may have given them some recompense. A bottle of rum used to be a very good consideration to the Indians for any given tract of land. *Question.*—Are you aware whether the rights of Lord Selkirk were under any treaty? *Answer*—I am not aware of that."

Now, it would seem that about the very first thing demanding the attention of the Dominion Government, is to secure a good understanding with the Indian tribes. Their numbers, east of the Rocky Mountains, in 1857, amounted, according to the most authentic accounts, to 50,000, perhaps 55,000 souls. Whether they have since increased or decreased it would be difficult to ascertain. But with these people some understanding in the nature of a treaty should immediately be made. At present of tobacco and pipes, made by Prince Arthur to Mr. Monkman, to be distributed among the chiefs of the tribes, to enable them to smoke the "pipe of peace," he assured me, would have a most happy and beneficial effect. That a son of their "great mother," beyond the water, should send a message to her people in the North West, expressive of his regard for them, accompanied with a present like that, symbolic, as it is, of friendship and peace, will, said Mr. Monkman,—and his swarthy, manly, intelligent countenance lighted up, expressive of the most pleasurable emotions, as he related the fact,—will be received as a token of distinguished respect, and the knowledge of the fact will spread from lodge to lodge with great rapidity, and be the subject of much rejoicing among the tribes, around their camp fires. Too much importance, therefore, can hardly be attached to the necessity of an early and satisfactory settlement with the natives of the country.

Much of the success in settling and colonizing the North West will depend upon the legislation about to be adopted, in order to provide a suitable constitution, for nothing has transpired up to the moment these lines are being penned as to the measure about to be submitted by the Ministry to Parliament. A fair field, and no favour, with the rights of all persons and parties in the territory, as they were previous to the outbreak, guaranteed in the fullest manner—this is probably what all desire and expect. Nothing more could well be demanded. A constitution based on this platform, one that can be cheaply and effectually worked, having in it the elastic principles which will adapt themselves to changes, and a prospective rapid increase of population, the rulers always and ever responsible to the ruled—such a constitution will afford all the security required to insure to the present and future inhabitants of this extensive domain a happy and prosperous future. In devising and perfecting such a measure great and grave responsibilities devolve upon both Ministers and Parliament. That they may prove themselves equal to the emergency, must be the earnest, sincere desire of every well wisher of the Dominion. Much, very much, depends upon the successful accomplishment of the undertaking.

Senate Chamber,
Ottawa, April 30, 1870.

THE NORTH WEST.

Report of Commissioner Donald Smith—Detention in Fort Garry—Riel's Tactics—His Attempt to Obtain possession of Smith's papers—The Appointment of Delegates—Account of the Murder of Scott—Dissatisfaction of the French half-breeds—A strong Military Force required.

[Confidential.]

OTTAWA, April 12.

To the Hon. Joseph Howe, Secretary of State for the Provinces, Ottawa.

SIR,—In pursuance of the commission confided to me by His Excellency the Governor General in relation to the affairs at the North West Territory, I addressed you from time to time during my residence within Fort Garry a correspondence carried on under very unfavourable circumstances, as will appear from the report I have now the honor to submit. Leaving Ottawa on the 13th December last I reached St. Cloud, the terminus of railway communication, on the 17th. Continuing on the same day by stage, and arriving at Abercrombie on the evening of the 19th. Here we had to abandon wheeled carriages, and procuring a sleigh after a couple of hours rest, we resumed our journey. On the afternoon of the 21st I met the Hon. Mr McDougall and party, about thirty miles below Georgetown. From him I learned how a rough aspect of affairs had latterly become at Red River, and pushing on we got to Pembina about 11 p. m. on the 24th, and to Fort Garry on the 27th. The gate of the Fort we found open, but guarded by several armed men, who, on my desire to be shown to Governor McTavish's house, requested me to wait till they could communicate with their chief. In a short time Mr. Louis Riel appeared. I announced my name. He said he had heard of my arrival at Pembina, and was about to send off a party to bring me in. I then accompanied him to a room occupied by ten or a dozen men, whom he introduced to me as members of the Provisional Government. He requested to know the purport of my visit, to which I replied, in substance, that I was connected with the Hudson's Bay Company, but also held a commission from the Canadian Government to the people of Red River, and would be prepared to produce my credentials as soon as satisfactory, the people, were willing to receive me; I was then asked to take an oath not to attempt to leave the fort that night, nor to use the Government against the stability of the Provisional Government. This request I peremptorily refused to comply with, but said that, being very tired, I had no desir to go outside the gate that night, and promised to take no immediate steps likely to upset their so-called Provisional Government, legal or illegal, as might be, without first announcing my intention to do so. Mr Riel, taking exception to the word illegal, which I resisted in retaining it, Mr. O'Donohue, to get over the difficulty, remarked, "this is as the Queen may qualify it." To which I replied, "Precisely so." The above explanation I am the more particular in giving, as it has been reported that I at once acknowledged the revolutionary government to be legal. Neither then nor afterwards did I do so. I took up my quarters in one of the houses occupied by the Hudson's Bay Company's officers, and from that date until towards the close of February was virtually a prisoner within the Fort, although with permission to go outside the walls for exercise, accompanied by two armed guards, a privilege of which I never availed myself. All my official papers had been left in charge of Mr. Provencher, at Pembina, as I had been warned that if found in my possession, they would unquestionably be seized, as were those brought into the settlement shortly after by the Rev. Mr Thibault and Col. DeSalaberry. The state of matters at this time in and round Fort Garry was most unsatisfactory and truly humiliating. Upwards of 60 British subjects were held in close confinement as political prisoners. Security for persons or property there was none; the Fort with its large supplies of ammunition, provision and stores of all kinds, was in the possession of a few hundred French half-breeds, whose leaders had declared their determination to use every effort for the purpose of annexing the territory to the United States, and the Governor and Council of Assiniboine were powerless to enforce the law. On the 6th of January I saw Mr. Riel, and soon came to the conclusion that no good could arise from entering into any negotiations with his Council, even were we to admit their authority, which I was not prepared to do. We learnt that on the 13th, the Grand Vicar Thibault and Col. DeSalaberry appeared before the President and Council of the people, when explanations and compliments were exchanged, after which the very reverend gentleman and his associate were politely bowed out and lost sight of. Meantime we had frequent visits in the Fort from some of the most influential and most reliable in the settlement, who gladly made known to the people generally the liberal intentions of the Canadian Government, and in consequence, one after another of Riel's Councillors seceded from him, and being joined by their friends and by many of the Irish malcontents, who had throughout held aloof from the insurgents, they determined no longer to submit to his dictation. This change evidently had a marked effect on Riel, causing him to alter his tactics and to profess a desire for accomodation with Canada. Accordingly, on the 14th of January, he called on me and informed me that he had seen Messrs. Thibault and D Salaberry, whose instructions did not authorise them to give assurances that the people would be secured in the possession of their rights, on entering into the Confederation, their errand being merely "to calm the French half-breeds." He then asked to see my commission, and on my explaining that, owing entirely to the action taken by himself, it was not in my possession, in an excited yet faltering manner, he replied, "Yes, I know this a great pity, but how soon could you have it? probably in five, or six days.' I replied, 'That is too long—far too long,' he responded; and then asked where the documents were deposited, requesting, at the same time, a written order for their delivery to his messenger. To this I would not accede; but, on his assuring me that they would be delivered into my hands, and that I should be afforded an opportunity of communicating their contents to the people. I consented to send a friend for them. It was so decided, and immediately after the messenger had received his instructions from me, I was placed under arrest. A Captain's guard being assigned to me, whose instructions were not to lose sight of me for one moment, day or night, and to prevent me from communicating either verbally or in writing with any individual. I protested, saying 'am I to consider myself a prisoner.' He replied, 'certainly not, I have the utmost confidence in your honor, but circumstances demand this.' It was now about 10 o'clock, and my messenger having been marched out, I returned to bed, but only to be awakened twixt two and three o'clock in the morning of the 15th, by Mr. Riel, who with a guard stood by the bed side, and again demanded a written order for the delivery of my official papers, which I again peremptorily refused to give. The well alarmed French party became aware of what had happened, and not believing in Riel's good faith, determined to prevent the papers from falling into his hands. They got together 60 or 80 men, who met my friend on his way back, and were escorting him, when on the 16th, about ten miles from the Fort, when they were accosted by Riel and some of his party, and by the Rev. Mr. Richot, and an altercation took place. Riel attempted to use his pistol, saying he would not be taken alive in his own country, on which a revolver was levelled at his head, and Mr. Richot having interfered, he was unceremoniously told to stand aside and not interfere any further with matters unconnected with his spiritual duties. It may be well to note that all those who took part in this affair, were Catholics, and with one or two exceptions, French half-breeds. No thing more serious happened at this time, and the party proceeded together to Fort Garry, where they arrived in the forenoon. A few minutes before their entered the house, the Very Rev. Mr. Thibault, Pere Lestarc, and Col. De Salaberry called upon me, and with the exception of my guard, they were the first individuals with whom I was permitted to converse since the 14th. They appeared to be much concerned, and said it was currently reported I had been endeavouring to incite the different parties to hostile collision. I repudiated any such charge—explained that I had acted only in the cause of peace and order, and with the desire of making the people, both French and English, fully acquainted with the liberal views of the Canadian Government, so that a peaceful transfer of the territory might be effected, adding that I was pleased to know the state now every likelihood this would speedily be accomplished. In the meantime, the party in possession of my papers entered the adjoining room, in which Pere Lestarc joined them, while Messrs. Thibault and De Salaberry went outside. Immediately after they arrived, Mr. Riel came to me, saying your commission is here, but in the hands of men who had no right to have it I expressed satisfaction that it had been brought in, and said, being now in possession of it, I must be relieved from all restraint and be permitted freely to communicate with the people. He at once removed the guard, and we went up to the party who had just arrived. Messrs. Riel and O'Donohue, with a few of their friends, were present, and vehemently protested against the action now being taken, while the Ex-Councillors accused them of treason to the Imperial Crown, and of using every effort to bring about the annexation of the country to the United States. Riel replied that it was only supposing the people desired it; but he was willing the question should be submitted to them. Pere Lestanc spoke warmly in favor of the President, who, he said, had acted so as to merit the gratitude of his countrymen, and begged them still to place confidence in him; this evidently had no effect, and ultimately, after a good deal of recrimination, it was arranged that a meeting of the inhabitants from all parts of the settlement should be called for on the morrow, the 19th, at which the papers bearing on the subject should be ready. A guard of 40 men remained in the house to ensure the safe keeping of the documents. Riel's men were now falling away from him, while the loyal party expressed their determination no longer to be guided in the matter, either by him or by Pere Lestanc and his associates. They were full of hope, and confident that the following day would bring complete success to the cause of Canada. That night Pere Lestanc paid them another visit which was prolonged for several hours beyond midnight, and that morning it was found that a majority of those who had seceded from Riel were again on friendly terms with him. The hour for the meeting having arrived, upwards of a thousand people attended, and deeming it of great importance that the explanations to be made on behalf of the Canadian Government should be faithfully rendered to the French speaking portion of the settlers, whose leader, he studiously withheld from them all knowledge of the true state of matters in connection with the produced transfer of the country. I requested Colonel D. Salaberry to act as interpreter, but the Colonel, diffident of his own ability as a translator, proposed Mr. Riel as interpreter, and the latter was appointed accordingly. At this meeting and that held the following day, the reading of the commission, the Queen's letter, and every document was contested with obstinacy, but ultimately carried, and threats were used to myself in the presence and hearing of their chairman, of the secretary, Judge Black, and others, more especially by Mr. Riel and Rev Mr. Leclair. At the commencement of the meeting I requested the chairman and those near him that I be allowed to address the people, but this was refused by inviting that all arms should be laid down, and that the flag then flying, *Fleur de lis* and Shamrock should be replaced by British Ensign. This they thought would come better at an after stage, but the opportunity of doing so