

who had ceased to have confidence in the Dominion Police Commissioner, and who now offered Mr. Lyon the aid of their constables and the use of the lock-up they had erected at Rat Portage for the temporary confinement of prisoners.

As evidence of the lawlessness which prevailed in the neighbourhood at this period, it may be stated that bands of whiskey peddlers on McDougall's Island and at Eagle Lake had armed themselves with knives and revolvers and openly set the constables at defiance. The latter body succeeded in arresting three of the criminals at Eagle Lake. When the fact of the arrests became known, the remainder of the band forcibly rescued their comrades by overpowering the constables, subsequently firing into the telegraph office in which the latter had taken refuge.

Early in 1880, the Ontario Stipendiary was granted the assistance of a paid constable, but the usefulness of the Magistrate became speedily circumscribed from the fact that prisoners committed by him to the lock-up heretofore placed at his disposal, were not received, on the ground that that edifice had been proclaimed by the Dominion Government a Jail for the District of Keewatin. As, from the class of offences common at Rat Portage, few persons were disposed to lodge complaints which might involve a journey to Winnipeg or Prince Arthur's Landing to prosecute, Mr. Lyon remained more or less inactive until the first sitting of the Ontario Division Court, on 16th May, 1881. Up to this time, the Manitoba Government had made no movement whatever towards interference in the disputed territory, but the Legislature of that Province had passed an Act on the 4th March, 1881, consenting to an increase of boundaries easterly and westerly. This Act, passed on the invitation of the Dominion Government, was confirmed by an Act of the Federal Parliament, on the 21st March, 1881. The following were the terms and conditions on which such increase was made:—

"(a) All the enactments and provisions of all the Acts of Parliament of Canada which have, since the creation of the Province of Manitoba, been extended into and made to apply to the said Province, shall extend and apply to the territory by this Act added thereto as fully and effectually as if the same had originally formed part of the Province and the boundaries thereof had in the first instance been fixed and defined as is done by this Act, subject, however, to the provisions of Section three of this Act.

"(b) The said increased limit and the territory hereby added to the Province of Manitoba shall be subject to all such provisions as may have been, or shall hereafter be enacted, respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the lands to be granted in aid thereof.

"3. All laws and ordinances in force in the territory hereby added to the Province of Manitoba at the time of the coming into force of this Act, and all Courts of Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction, and all legal commissions, powers and authorities, and all officers, judicial, administrative and ministerial, existing therein at the time of the coming into force of this Act shall continue therein as if such territory had not been added to the said Province; subject nevertheless, with respect to matters within the legislative authority of the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba, to be repealed, abolished or altered by the said Legislature."

Although this Act was assented to by the Governor-General on the 21st March, 1881, no step had been taken by the Manitoba Government towards the civil, criminal or municipal organization of any portion of the disputed territory up to the time of the sitting of the Ontario Division Court on the 16th May. A Bill was, however, introduced into the Provincial Legislature and assented to on 21st May, 1881, intended to pave the

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