

THE RED RIVER.

There is no change to record in the progress towards solution of the Red River difficulty. The Commissioners of the Canadian Government have not yet had time to report upon the state of affairs in the Settlement. But it would be a mistake to suppose that because all save some fifty of the insurgents have abandoned Fort Garry and gone to the plains on their winter hunting excursion, therefore the difficulty has almost blown over. The fact is these people understand well that the winter offers an inaccessible barrier to any opposing force that could be brought against them from the outer world, and they feel about equally secure against a hostile movement from within, so long as they abstain from overt acts of hostility against their more loyally disposed neighbours, who, for the present, are contented to leave the insurgents alone, so long as the mails, the ordinary progress of trade, and the rights of private property are respected. The Grand Vicar Thibault, and Col. De Salaberry will, therefore, have every facility for carrying on peaceful negotiations with the so-called President Brousse, and his Secretary, Mr. Riel. The latter gentleman is the moving spirit among the disaffected. He is well educated, of an active turn of mind, a fluent speaker, and, it appears, not by any means averse to making a stir in the world. The attitude of Governor McTavish and of the other officials of the Hudson's Bay Company, has been such as to leave no cause of complaint against them; but a new cause for the rising has been promulgated by Mr. Sanford, of Hamilton, Ont., who has but recently arrived from a visit to the Red River Settlement, with which he is connected in the way of business. Mr. Sanford repudiates the notion that personal hostility to the Hon. Mr. McDougall had any influence in leading to the uprising. He says that the newspaper correspondents and the officials of the Canadian Government in the territory have caused the mischief: the former by their sneering allusions to the half-breeds, and the latter by their supercilious airs. It has been especially offensive even to men such as Governor McTavish, many of whom have formed matrimonial alliances with the half-breeds, to hear the latter spoken of so disrespectfully. Indeed the Governor is reported by Mr. Sanford to have pointed to his own wife an accomplished lady of Indian blood sitting at the head of his table, in explanation of the offensiveness of the newspaper criticisms just referred to. When the trouble was brewing those who did not sympathize with its promoters took no means to check it, feeling that the Canadians had failed to treat them with the respect they thought was their due. This unfriendly feeling, created unthinkingly by those who, perhaps, cared more for spicing their correspondence than conciliating the people of the Red River, has helped to increase the difficulty of the situation, and will, no doubt, continue to be a source of embarrassment in the administration of affairs in the North-West. But with time and friendly negotiation, backed up, if need be, by such a display of force as will compel respect for the law, the Red River trouble will be got quietly over.

For the present the Hon. Mr. McDougall and the other



A RED RIVER INSURGENT.

gentlemen who accompanied him, intending to discharge official duties in the provisional government to be organized in the Territory, remain quietly at Pembina—in sight of the land of promise; but taking no measures for the assertion of their authority. This course of inactivity will no doubt be adhered to until after the result of the negotiation undertaken on the part of the Dominion Government is made known.

The town of Winnipeg, of a portion of which we give a view this week, is the centre of the Settlement. Our picture is enlarged from a photograph by Ryder Larsen, who plies the photographic art in that far-off region. The part of the town here exhibited lies northward of, and near to Fort Garry. To the right, and the most prominent building in the picture, is the building occupied by Dr. Schultz as a residence and drug

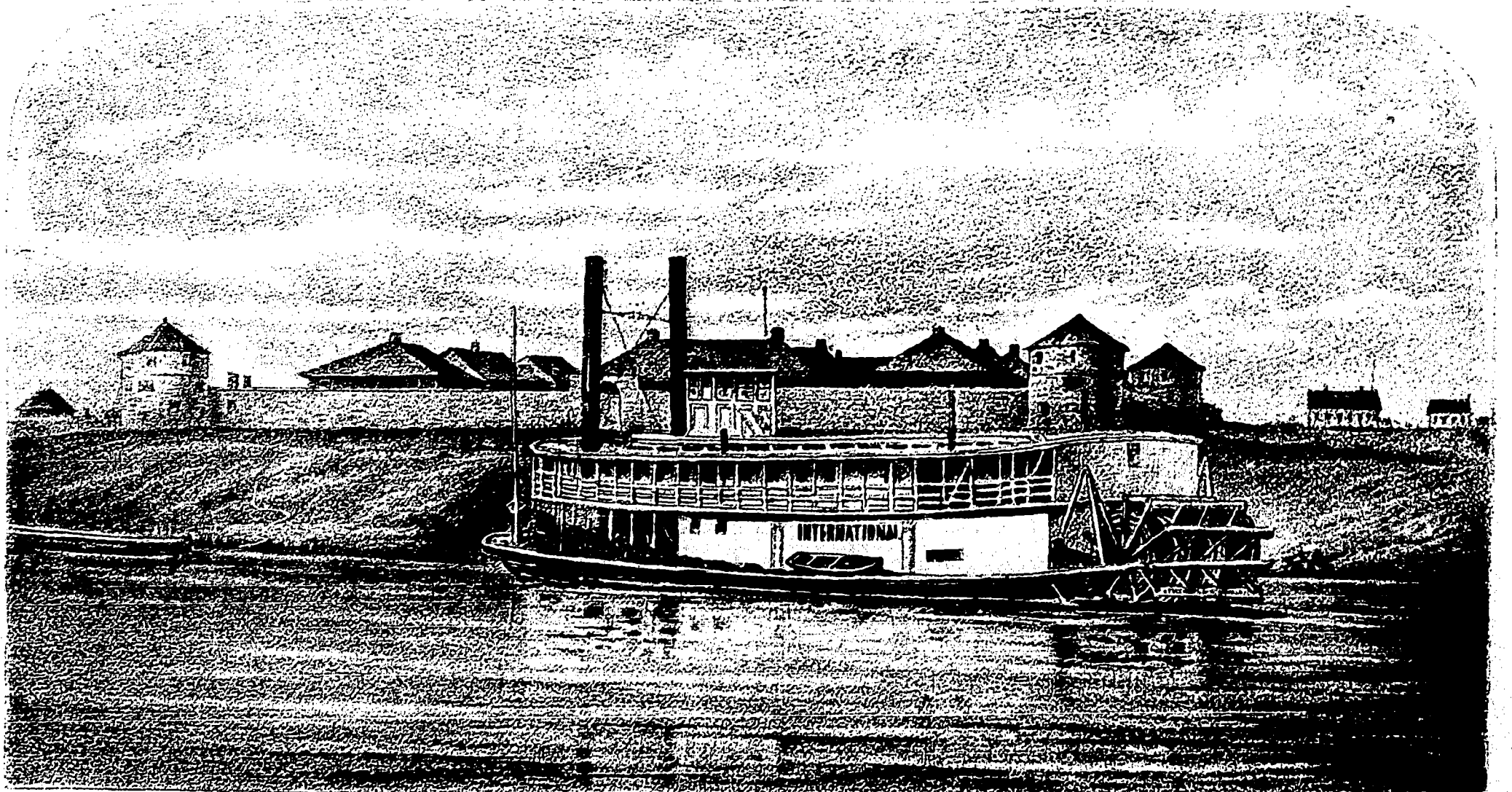
store. Adjoining that is the office of the *Nor' Wester* newspaper; while on the left is shown one of the H. B. Company's stores. It may be remembered that Dr. Schultz's flag gave great offence to the "Liberators," and that they took possession of the *Nor' Wester* office and, *vi et armis*, compelled the printers to set up and print their manifesto, while they held the proprietor as a prisoner of war. Some Canadian officials were also detained in custody for a few days, but they were afterwards released on parole we suppose, and certainly without the formality of exchange of prisoners, so that the vexed question of "belligerency" has not yet arisen to complicate the issue.

From another photograph by Larsen (also enlarged), we have Leggotyped the portrait of a half-breed, whose features and costume, we are assured, give a fair average representation of his class. The man who sat for this photograph, whose name would be of no possible interest to our readers, is, though not a leader, a prominent character in the rank and file of the insurgent party; he has already proved that the harsh nature indicated by his strongly marked, if not very amiable looking countenance, is not difficult to rouse within him, for he has been caught in the meshes of the law for crimes against the persons of some who had given him personal offence. It will be a striking commentary on the administration of justice in the Red River Country if this man, who has earned a life of penal servitude by his crimes, should be among the negotiators with the representatives of Canada.

Fort Garry from the river bank, with the Hudson Bay Company's steamer "International" in the foreground, is another picture from a photograph by Larsen. The "International," during the season of navigation, plies between the fort and Georgetown, a distance of over 240 miles, taking fifteen days for the round trip. The fort itself is a substantial structure, the wall which surrounds it, as well as the towers and bastions, being of solid masonry. Though at present nominally held by the insurgents, the Hudson Bay Company's officials continue to occupy it and carry on their operations with little or no interruption. The reports that have reached the Canadian papers of the doings of the Convention assembled at the call of "President" Brousse, on the 16th of last month, and thence adjourned to the 22nd, do not give much positive information. It is said in general terms that the

English and Scotch members who attended made a favourable impression upon the leaders of the insurrectionary movement, but that no agreement was come to. A letter published in the *Montreal Herald* says:—

"We are politically quiet for the moment, there being nothing to call for fresh action on the part of the half-breeds. The council called by President Brousse met on the day appointed, viz: the 16th, and sat two days, when the sitting of the General Quarterly Court interrupted its further deliberation. The parishes called on, I believe, all sent their representatives. The situation was pretty fully discussed, but, as no reporter was present, only garbled accounts have reached the outsiders. There was no vote taken and no definite settlement was made, but a further meeting is to be held on the



FORT GARRY AND STEAMER "INTERNATIONAL."