

13. That treaties be concluded between Canada and the different Indian tribes of the Northwest at the request and with the co-operation of the Local Legislature.

14. That an uninterrupted steam communication from Lake Superior to Fort Garry be guaranteed to be completed within the space of five years, as well as the construction of a railroad connecting the American railway as soon as the latter reaches the international boundary.

15. That all public buildings and constructions be at the cost of the Canadian Exchequer.

16. That both the English and French languages be common in the Legislature and in the courts; and that all public documents as well as the acts of the Legislature be published in both languages.

17. That the Lieutenant-Governor to be appointed for the province of the Northwest be familiar with both the English and French languages.

18. That the judge of the supreme court speak the English and French languages.

19. That all debts contracted by the Provisional government of the territory of the Northwest, now called Assiniboia, in consequence of the illegal and inconsiderate measures adopted by Canadian officials to bring about a civil war in our midst, be paid out of the Dominion treasury, and that none of the Provisional government or any of those acting under them be in any way held liable or responsible with regard to the movement or any of the actions which led to the present negotiations.

While all this was going on on the banks of the Red River of the Northwest, great anxiety and uneasiness continued to prevail in the Colonial office in Downing street and at Ottawa; numerous despatches and telegrams were exchanged between the two. The following will give an idea of what was desired, hoped or feared.

On the 5th of March Lord Granville telegraphed to Sir John Young: "Her Majesty's Government will give proposed military assistance, provided reasonable terms are granted to the Red River settlers."

On the 17th of March the same to the same: "Let me know by telegram when you know delegates have started from Fort Garry."

Sir F. Rogers, under-secretary for the colonies, writes on the 22nd March: "Troops should not be employed in forcing the sovereignty of Canada on the population of Red River should they refuse to admit it."

On the 4th of April, the Governor-General conveyed by telegram to Earl Granville startling information: "Smith came here on Saturday from Fort Garry with bad news. A Canadian called Scott was, by Riel's orders, tried by court martial and shot, with the view it is supposed of compromising Riel's followers, before Tache had arrived. They say the delegates are coming, but it is quite clear Riel will yield to nothing but force. Things now look, I think, very bad."

On the 7th of April, the same telegraphed to the same: "Last of the delegates is expected at St. Paul on Thursday the 14th, the others arrived there today, and may reach Ottawa on Saturday the 9th."

Distressing as the news was, Earl Granville had still confidence in the negotiations he had so constantly urged; on the 9th of the same month he telegraphed to the Governor-General: "Let me know as soon as you can by telegram result of negotiations with Red River delegates."

It is evident from the above documents that Her Majesty's Government had no desire to impose by force the sovereignty of Canada on the settlers of Assiniboia, but that they were exceedingly anxious of a peaceable settlement through negotiations with the delegates. No need to add that all this was said and done in perfect good faith, on the part of Earl Granville, and that Her Majesty's Government intended to bind themselves to protect and safeguard the agreement, secured not only with their sanction, but at their explicit and repeated request.

The two first delegates arrived at Ottawa on the 11th; in spite of what had been said and promised, they were arrested. This incident, which could have caused serious complications, was learned with regret by Lord Granville, who telegraphed to the Governor-General: "Was arrest of delegates authorized by the Canadian Government? Send full information by telegram."

Sir John Young answered the next day: "Arrest of delegates was not authorized by the Canadian Government."

On the 23rd of the same month of April, Earl Granville thus informed the Governor-General: "Canadian Government to accept decision of Her Majesty's Government on all portions of the settlers' bill of rights."

The very same day the negotiations began at Ottawa. Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir George Cartier were appointed by the Canadian Government to treat with the three delegates of the Northwest.