

While agreeing with Col. Storke, Mr. Morivale, under date of 6th March, 1858, states that it would be unfair to the Hudson's Bay company to withdraw the troops, and calls attention to a request of Sir George Simpson that troops were required on account of "disturbance and discontent" and the "stirring up of the people of the Red River settlement in opposition to the "civil authorities." "The assent of Lord Panmure to the measure was therefore given with full knowledge of the particular service which was likely to be required of the detachment." He also says that "as the future government of Red River is a subject of correspondence between H. M. Government and that of Canada" he desires no change, but "will, however, caution the governor and committee of the Hudson's Bay Company as to the necessity of using great discretion in calling on the military for their assistance, and confining such application to cases of actual disturbance of the peace."

Extract from letter of Sir Geo. Simpson to Wm. G. Smith, secretary Hudson's Bay company:

LACHINE (Canada) }  
5th March, 1858. }

"It is unnecessary to say much in refutation of the conclusion Major Seton has arrived at that troops were not required at Red river. That point was settled before they were sent. It will be remembered there was a growing sympathy in the past of the Red river half-breeds towards the United States, the Government of which country, with evident design, was bringing its military stations close to the British frontier, at the same time persons from Canada were mischievously employed at Red river inciting resistance to the established rule of the territory, which soon bore fruit, the course of justice having been resisted by force, while lives and property were at the mercy of a semi-barbarous population—these were real, threatening evils, and did not exist merely in the imagination of those members of the company who do not reside in this territory."

It is worth noting that while Sir George Simpson, in 1856, appeared to be so fearful of the presence of United States troops at the frontier (though on two occasions, prior to that date, British troops had been stationed on this side of the international line) nine years later, his successor, Governor Dallas, on receiving a written request from Major Hatch, dated at Pembina, March 4th, 1864, asking for permission to cross the line with his troops, to attack the refugee Sioux Indians, then camped at Poplar Point, sixty miles north of the line, answered immediately, giving full and free permission for the United States soldiers to act on British soil, stipulating only that blood should not be shed in the houses or enclosures of the settlers if the Sioux took refuge in those places. I mention this fact more particularly because it has been denied by some persons that such permis-

sion was ever granted. My authority is a copy of each letter, which I possess.

In conclusion, I draw to your notice the reasons given by different persons regarding the necessity for the presence of troops at Fort Garry. On various occasions we find that it was because "United States troops were stationed at the frontier," "discontent and disturbance at Red river," "the stirring up of the people in opposition to the civil authorities," "persons from Canada were mischievously employed at Red River inciting resistance to the established rule of the territories," "Necessity for the protection of the lives and property of the company's servants and the settlers," "an invasion from Canada of fur traders," "disputes between the Americans and Indians," and "disturbances arising out of the infringements of the company's monopoly."

A review of the correspondence, and the evidence given before the select committee in London, together with an acquaintance of the steps taken by the Canadian government, impresses me with the idea, that Sir George Simpson fearing an influx of settlers from Canada following the exploring parties sent out, and of an immigration from Minnesota, seized on the pretext that a small reconnoitering party of American troops had, for the first time, visited the frontier, made a requisition for British troops to support the rule of the Council of Assinibolia (which was the creation of the company) against all comers.

As negotiations were pending between the Imperial Government and that of Canada regarding the future possession and government of the country west of Lake Superior, the company found considerable difficulty in inducing the Imperial authorities to send out the troops to Fort Garry; but at last the application was so cleverly made, with references to American designs and the likelihood of an Indian war with a general massacre of the white population, together with an offer to provide transport and sustenance for the force, free of all cost to the Government, they consented, and the troops went out.

The population of Assinibolia had got beyond the control of the company, and the presence of troops was necessary to keep them within bounds until the company, if finally compelled to hand over the country to Canada, could attain a substantial award for their claimed rights under the charter of 1670.

A perusal of the documents published in connection with the transfer, and Ontario boundary disputes, will, I think, convince people that the company saw that the "day and hour had arrived" when they must give up possession, at least of the best agricul-