

THE NOR-WESTER.

CALGARY, THURSDAY, May 14, 1885.

On Sunday the 10th instant the company of Col. Osborne Smith's battalion marched into barracks here on their return from Fort McLeod. A more soldierly looking lot of men we have never seen. We congratulate the country that it possesses such material for soldiers with which to put down rebellion or if needed defend our borders.

We were glad to welcome our fellow-townsman, Mr. McVittie, D.L.S., back amongst us on Thursday last, and we would remind our Town Fathers that the water question is still an open and also a pressing one. We know our friend McVittie took a series of levels in connection with this matter, and we think his skill and information should be utilized.

The gentlemen composing the half-breed commission left for McLeod on Monday morning the 11th instant, and will be in Regina on the 13th. The government has been fortunate in the gentlemen selected for this most important commission, and we are glad to chronicle the success that has attended the various meetings of the commission. This commission is an evidence to the country of the desire of the government to do justice to all classes of the community, and our people may rest assured that in due time all grievances properly represented will be remedied.

ALTHOUGH the committee of arrangements did not see fit to recognize the Nor-wester in any way, yet we are glad to hear that the towns people of Calgary gave an entertainment in honor of Col. Amyot and the gallant 9th battalion on Friday evening last. We are told that Col. Amyot, as was to be expected from so able and eloquent a man, made a capital and most patriotic speech. We were also glad to learn that certain persons who, until the advent of the troops amongst us, had been distinguished for very questionable loyalty have apparently recovered that discretion which at the time of the meeting at Fish Creek they appeared to be wanting in. All these things are encouraging to loyal settlers, showing that after all the bulk of our people are loyal to Queen and country. We should have been glad to report the utterances at the entertainment but we were not given the option of doing so. In conclusion we would say that the Nor-wester is completely in sympathy with every movement which tends to do honor to our noble volunteers.

THE HALF-BREED CLAIMS.

The Instructions Which are Issued to the Commissioner.

A Times' special says, in their instructions the Northwest commissioners are told that the Government deem it expedient to satisfy the claims existing in connection with the extinguishment of the Indian title in the following manner, by granting to every half-breed head of a family who resides outside of Manitoba, previous to July 15th, 1870, the land of which he is at present in bona fide and undisputed possession to the extent of 160 acres, and if the land he is cultivating is less than 160 acres the difference is to be made up to him in an issue of scrip redeemable in land at the rate of \$1 per acre; and in the case of a half-breed head of a family residing in the territories previous to July 15, 1870, who is not in bona fide possession of any land, by the issue of scrip redeemable to the extent of 160 acres, by granting to each half-breed chief ten outside of Manitoba previous to July 15th, 1870, a lot of land of which he is at present undisputed occupant to the extent of 240 acres or its equivalent in scrip.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Disturbance in the Northwest.

Mr. BLAKE asked, Was any report or representation made, and when, by any member or officer of the Government, and by whom, with reference to the claims of the half-breeds of the Northwest Territories to be placed in a position analogous to that of the half-breeds in Manitoba, to whom a grant of 1,400,000 acres was made under the Manitoba Act? Was any such report or representation requested by the Government or any officer or member of the Government, and when? Was there any Order in Council on the subject prior to that of 28th January, 1885, and at what date?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. With respect to this question and all other questions the hon. gentlemen has placed on the paper relating to the Northwest, so far as I am concerned, I would state that the Government think it is highly inexpedient in the public interest to answer those questions.

Mr. BLAKE asked, Was any communication received by the Government or any Department touching any of the half-breed claims in the Northwest Territories, or any of the settlers' claims, or the agitation of the Prince Albert district, or the action of L. Rieler and his associates, or the condition of feeling among the half-breeds, Indians or whites, and expressing the views of any.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The same answer.

Mr. BLAKE asked, Was any part of the Mounted Police force ordered to Prince Albert last year? When and in what strength? Was the action taken on representation from the Northwest, and on whose representations?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The same answer.

Post-office Inspector McLeod has made arrangements for a daily mail service from Winnipeg to Calgary.

A Rev. Joker.

Rev. T. W. Jeffrey is the pastor of the Queen street Methodist church and likewise a very funny man, given to joking and humorous, though edifying, discourses. Sunday night the Rev. T. W. got talking about the newspaper men, and he said:—I have noticed during the past week in the newspaper articles dealing severely with preachers for not going to the Northwest. It is all very well for editors to sit behind the walls and write about the preachers, but has one editor volunteered his services in the Northwest? (Laughter.) Not one.

Again, they condemn our route, and say the soldiers should have been sent through the United States. Let the editors organize a regiment, and attempt to reach the Northwest by that means, and there will be fewer editors in the country. (Laughter.)

Another point: They say that not a preacher volunteered to accompany the soldiers to the Northwest as a spiritual adviser. They are wrong. Half a dozen ministers offered their services, and they had no business to do so. I am a minister under orders. The president of the conference controls me. If he should say to me to-morrow, "Go to the Northwest," I would be ready to start at once. I would get there if I had to foot it every step of the way. We are no cowards. The history of the Methodist church in the past proves that. If it were necessary a whole regiment of Methodist ministers could be organized for active service in the Northwest, and if they never rode anything else than a bronchitis (laughter) they would do their best to keep up with the mounted police, or if they never shot anything else than a pop-gun (laughter) they would endeavor to handle a musket. When they left there might be more behind than before, but that opens a wide field for discussion. We are no cowards, and when the brothers of my cloth are assailed I am going to defend them. I will not let every fool in the country have his way without raising my voice.

Another point: Some of our editors have too much knowledge. I read in one paper, last night, how the rebels might make such a movement and hem in the troops, and how the wires might be cut. Telling the rebels how they can cut our brave volunteers to pieces: if any of you have any influence with the editors, for God's sake use it.—Toronto News.

Fort Pitt Fallen.

On Monday noon two scouts came in from Pitt bringing the melancholy news of its destruction and the probable slaughter of all who were within its walls.

Their story is, that when they arrived opposite the fort at night everything was dark, and that in the morning they saw that it was abandoned and that all the doors and windows in the building were broken.

Little Poplar with two lodges was along side the fort and entered into conversation with the scouts. He told them that he had persuaded the police and others to make their escape, as otherwise they would be killed, and acting on his advice they had gone down the river on a raft.

Little Poplar said he had saved the lives of the people but was otherwise not very communicative.

Malcolm Macdonald, at one time interpreter to the force, was also there, but declined to accompany them, as he said he was a prisoner—on what account or by whom held he did not say. He also was v.r. reticent.

The fall of this place is a terrible calamity, as it involves the fate of nearly fifty people; for taking everything into account there is but little hope of their escape or rescue. Even if they did embark on a raft under the safe-conduct of a chief, it by no means follows that they would be allowed to escape with their lives. The opportunity of killing a lot of defenceless people as they run down the narrow places in the river without endangering themselves is one that the perpetrators of the cold blooded atrocities at Frog Lake would not allow to pass.

That the fugitives have not been able to make good their escape is apparent, as they should have been here a day or two ago, the run by the river not usually taking more than two or three days.—Saskatchewan Herald.

A Southern Crime.

Once in a while an arrest is made by detectives which brings prominently before our notice the progress of civilization. In no department has that progress been more marked and rapid as in the detection of crime. It is said that "murder will come out," and it may now be said with equal force and truth that "a murderer will always be captured." Whether he will be properly punished is more questionable. The manner in which criminals in recent years have eluded justice by means of legal technicalities leads us to believe that the courts are not as efficient as the detective system.

A short time ago a startling discovery was made at the Southern Hotel in St. Louis. In a room in the hotel, packed in a trunk, was found the body of a murdered man. It was a case involved in unusual mystery, but the persistent search of the detectives finally penetrated the secret of the terrible crime. It was found that the victim's name was Preller, and suspicion fell on one W. H. Lemox Maxwell as his murderer.

Maxwell had been intimate with Preller at the hotel. He was a man of good education, a great traveler, and a perfect gentleman in appearance. It was almost inconceivable that he was the author of the crime, but the officers of the law got together evidence of a character which left little doubt as to his guilt. But where was Maxwell? He had disappeared. His plans had been well laid and cunningly executed. Seemingly, he had effected his escape in a manner which would baffle the detective powers of the police. Considerable time had passed when the time of his departure and the discovery of Preller's body.

On Wednesday, the chief of police of St. Louis received a cablegram from the United States consul at Auckland, New Zealand, announcing Maxwell's arrest. Detectives found that Maxwell had gone direct to San Francisco from St. Louis, and before it was known that the murder had been committed, the murderer was on board a steamer on the Pacific ocean bound for a country with which we have very little communication. And yet within a few days after the discovery of the murder, a keen-scented detective had tracked him to San Francisco and Francisco and learned of his departure on the Pacific steamer. The telegraph then came to the aid of the law and when the steamer made her first stop at Auckland, the murderer found himself under arrest. The difficulties of eluding the law in these days are well exemplified by this case.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

Rebels Hanged.

COLON, May 8.—The two rebel leaders, Patzall and Cokobalo, who advised and assisted Preston in burning this city and who have been held prisoners on Galena, were delivered yesterday morning to Gen. Reyes, commander-in-chief of the Colombian forces, by Capt. Kane. A court-martial was then held by Gen. Reyes, and the rebel conspirators were sentenced to death. No delay occurred in executing the sentence of the court. In the afternoon the condemned men were taken to the middle of the ruins and hanged in the presence of thousands of people. The place selected for the hanging was the exact spot where the leaders of the rebellion started the fire of March 31st, which laid this city in ashes and destroyed nearly every building in it. Gen. Reyes' prompt action has had its effect. The hanging of Patzall and Cokobalo has struck terror to the hearts of every rebel.

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