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M E S S A G E

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING,

In response to Senate resolution of February 11, 1889, a report upon the case of Louis Riel.

MARCH 12, 1889.—Read and laid upon the table.

MARCH 19, 1889.—Ordered to be printed, omitting the printed inclosures.

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, in answer to the Senate resolution of the 11th ultimo, a report of the Secretary of State, with accompanying papers, in regard to the case of Louis Riel, otherwise known as Louis David Riel.

BENJ. HARRISON.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, March 11, 1889.

To the President:

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of February 11, 1889—

That the President be requested to communicate to the Senate such knowledge or information as may be in his possession or under his control relating to the case of one Louis Riel, otherwise Louis David Riel, with copies of all documents, papers, correspondence, and evidence bearing upon the subject—

reports as follows:

Compliance with the resolution in its broadest sense would involve the transmission of a voluminous mass of correspondence with the British minister to this country, with the Secretary of War, and with our consuls at Montreal and Winnipeg, in regard to the preservation of neutrality along the border between the United States and Canada, and the prevention of the participation of American Indians in the rebellion against the British Government, and also communication of a great mass of newspaper clippings relative to the military operations in the Northwest Territory of the Dominion connected with the suppression of the insurrection there in 1885, which it is impossible to have copied with the present force of the Department, and which it is believed is not intended by the Senate resolution.

That resolution is understood to refer to the personal claim of Riel to protection as an American citizen. Accordingly, copies of the dispatches from the United States consul at Winnipeg, inclosing the petition of Riel to the President and two letters to the consul, with the peti-