

**Jean Baptiste Laplante, farmer, swears:**

"I was on a trip, when the rebellion broke out, to Troy, with freight for merchants at Batoche called Walters & Baker. I went no place else; after I delivered my freight, I went home. I staid home only one day, and a man named J. B. Deschamps came and looked for me. Deschamps had a gun, and said 'he would take me by force' if I would not come, and 'we will take all you have.' There were two of them, both armed. They brought me with them, but I had no gun. They brought me to Batoche, and said I must serve like the others. Riel told us our families would be killed by the troops, and that they must be all brought together."

**Gabriel Parenteau, farmer, swears:—**

"I was here to buy goods, and staid two days; when I got back, I heard that they had raided the stores and were gathering in parties at Batoche. When I went to the church on Sunday, I was taken prisoner [at the St. Laurent church] by Philippe Guardapui and some one else—I do not know his name. They told me they would either shoot or lock me up if I did not go. They took me over the river and put me in a house, and kept me two days. On the third day I escaped and went home. About three days after they came for me; Gabriel Dumont came for me, and told me that if I did not come they would tie me up, put me in the cellar, and take all my cattle from me. I told them they might take my cattle, but he made me go,—and after four days I again escaped home, and staid there five days with my horses in the prairie, only coming home at night. John Ross, junior, came again for me, and took us all—our families, women and children—and kept us there all the time, until, in the end, I was afraid to try it to get away again."

**Jean Carron, farmer, swears:—**

"I was at Batoche during the Rebellion and took part with the rebels in the Rebellion. I was not a councillor. I was invited to the baptism of Jackson to bring my gun, for fear we would be arrested by the police there, I had no gun then and went for twenty days without one. I was not forced to go, but was deceived by Riel himself. I told him I had much work but he asked us to assist at the ceremony and so was led into the Rebellion. When I came to the church at St. Antoine, Riel told us that there were five hundred police coming to fight us, that Clark of the company had told him so, he then had all the men of Batoche around him and Riel said this before all the people."

**Louis Marion, farmer, swears:—**

"I know that Mr. Ness was taken prisoner by the rebels. When I was taken, I was brought into the man's room with him and he was still a prisoner when I was released. Mr. Ness was a farmer and had cows and horses around his place. I heard them, the rebels, in the church where we were taken, say they that they were to go Ness's house and take his gun and anything else that would be useful to them. On the 17th March I was at Walter's store at Batoche and a young man came and told us there was going to be trouble. Next morning we were removed to the church and they had a meeting and Riel told me that I had ten minutes to consider if I would join them or else he would have to do something, I promised to join but first chance I escaped. Once, Riel had passed sentence on Charles Nolin and William Boyer because they had not joined them. After that he asked the people what they thought of what he had done in sentencing these men the people all approved of it by a loud noise. He then turned

around and told some of the prisoners what he had done, when he saw me, and he then said, God help you, I laughed at him when he said it is not too late yet, and then turning to the people he said he had forgotten me, but he would give me ten minutes to consider my position. That same night they went to Batoche's store and took out bales of blankets and clothing and served them out to those who were going to take Carleton. At this time the so-called Provisional Government was organized and had its sittings there, Riel nominated the members to the people, and if the people approved, the one named was taken into the Council. I think that sixteen captains joined him then that were named by Riel and voted in by the crowd in the church. I heard Riel say is the life of our merchants of this place of more value than ours, we will go and bring them with their arms. I saw a son of George Fisher and a son of Solomon Venne and young Gareault who had been brought in this way. I saw a number of Indians there, some of One Arrow's band, some of Beards's band and some Sioux Indians. I heard that many were forced to join, the people hearing Riel threatening us so much, it made them afraid to oppose him, his threats were made to intimidate his people and bring people more to his side, he and his chief men could not be opposed, his threats against us succeeded in keeping his people together."

**Norbert Threotte, farmer, swears:—**

"I was at Batoche during the Rebellion. I was invited with the others to the christening of Jackson, and, after that, we crossed the river and they would not let me return. I did not remain all the time. I was taken to Duck Lake, but did not take part in the fight and deserted that night and returned home for about a week, when two armed men came for me and took me again to Batoche where I remained all the time. I was there when the stores of Batoche, Boyer and Fisher were pillaged and the goods distributed and Venne's store as well, at the same time there were about two hundred and sixty men there then. I took nothing and took no part in the pillage. It was offered me but I refused. I took no part in any of the fights. They had a guard at different places and had passed a law that if any deserted they should be shot."

**Pierre Tourond, farmer, swears:—**

"I was present at Batoche with the Rebels, was forced to go by Riel, and was present at the battle of Fish Creek under arms and was wounded. My mother at times told us not to go, but Riel told us so many lies that we thought we had to go and fight, and he had too many men for us. All the time from the 17th of March, when he sent for us to come to the baptism of Jackson and bring our guns with us to salute the ceremony, when any of us would attempt to go home they would stop us and tell us that if we left, our cattle and goods would be taken, and if we were taken we would be shot."

**Maxime Lepine, farmer, swears:—**

"When Riel came that night of my arrival at home he said to me that five hundred police were coming to exterminate us and our families, and that he had called all the people together to see the baptism of Jackson and that the five hundred police were also coming to stop the ceremony. Riel, by the way he had acted for some months, had got the people to believe that anything he would say would be sure to happen. He had such an amount of influence among the people that they thought that anything they were told by Riel would happen. Riel by his ceremonies and mistatements about the outrages to