

That it would, in his opinion, be inexpedient to make any material changes in the Customs duties in Rupert's Land, until the means of access to the Territory shall have been greatly improved.

He therefore suggests that the present tariff should remain in force for at least two years from the 1st January next.

That it may, however, be necessary to establish duties on spirits, and possibly some other articles which are at present exempt.

That, if the above suggestion be concurred in, he would further recommend that an announcement of the intention of the Government be made to the people resident in the Territory, who may possibly feel some alarm on the subject of increased duties.

The Committee concur in the report of the Finance Minister, and submit the same for your Excellency's approval.

Certified.

WM. H. LEE,

Clerk P.C.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE PROVINCES,

December 4th, 1869.

*The Very Rev. Grand Vicar, Mr. Thibault,  
Ottawa.*

SIR,—Referring to the conversation held with a Committee of the Privy Council yesterday, and to your kind consent to undertake the delicate task of representing, in conjunction with Colonel de Salaberry, the views and policy of this Government to the people of the Hudson's Bay Territory, I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to convey to you, in the form of instructions for your guidance, the grounds of hope entertained here that your mission of peace and conciliation will be entirely successful.

You will not fail to direct the attention of the mixed society inhabiting the cultivated borders of the Red River and Assiniboine to the fact, which comes within your daily knowledge and observation and is patent to all the world, that in the four Provinces of this Dominion, men of all origins, creeds and complexions, stand upon one broad footing of perfect equality in the eye of the Government and the law, and that no administration could confront the enlightened public sentiment of this country which attempted to act in the North-West upon principles more restricted and less liberal than those which are firmly established here.

So far as you may have intercourse with the Indian chiefs and people, you will be good enough to remind them that while bloody and costly Indian wars have raged, often for long periods, in different sections of the United States, there has been no war with the Indians in any of the Provinces of British America since the conquest. For more than a century the Micmacs of Nova Scotia have lived in peace, while the rights of the Millicetes of New Brunswick have been respected. Everywhere within the Canadas, the progress of settlement, while it furnished new employments to the Indians, was rendered practicable by treaties and arrangements mutually satisfactory, that have formed the secure basis of the sympathy and co-operation which have distinguished the Canadians and Indians, not only since the Treaty of Paris, but from the earliest exploration of the country.

It may fairly be assumed that the just and judicious treatment of the Indian Tribes forms the brightest page in the history of British America. Canadians cannot afford to sully it by any ungenerous treatment of the Indians in the North-West.

That the disturbances which have taken place, at and around Winnipeg and Fort Garry, have grown out of vague apprehensions of danger, incident to the transition state of things which the action of the Imperial Government and Parliament rendered