

Donald A. Smith addressed a mass meeting in Fort Garry, at which he guaranteed to the people of this country in the name of Canada, all the rights and privileges that were given to the other provinces, if they would only consent to enter the Confederation of Canada. At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Louis Riel moved, seconded by Mr. A. G. B. Bannatyne, "That 20 representatives shall be elected by the English population of the Red River, to meet 20 other representatives of the French population, on Tuesday, the 25th instant, at noon, in the Court House with the object of considering the subject of Mr. Smith's commission, and to decide what would be best for the welfare of the country. "The 40 delegates were duly elected and these met in the Court House near Fort Garry on the 25th January, 1870. The convention sat fifteen days. On the third day of the meeting a committee consisting of Thomas Bunn, James Ross, Dr. Bird, Louis Riel, Louis Schmidt and Charles Noliu was appointed to draft a "Bill of Rights," which was to be submitted to Sir Donald A. Smith, High Commissioner, for Canada.

The Committee reported the Bill of Rights on the 29th January, 1870, and it was taken up by the Convention, clause by clause, and discussed until the 5th February, when it was fully adopted. The convention then adjourned until the 7th of February, 1870, when the Canadian Commissioner, Sir Donald A. Smith gave his reply to the Bill of Rights, and invited delegates to go to Ottawa and consult with the Government there. On the 8th February 1870, the question of sending a delegation to Ottawa was taken up by the Convention. This led to the discussion of recognizing and reorgan-

izing the Provisional Government, before the delegates to send to Ottawa with the Bill of Rights now agreed upon, were appointed. A committee was then appointed by the Convention "to discuss and decide on the basis and details of the Provisional Government which we have agreed is to be formed for Rupert's Land and the North-West Territories."

On the 9th February, 1870, the committee recommended to the Convention the advisability of creating a Legislative Assembly to be composed of twenty-four members, twelve English and twelve French, and a Cabinet to be constructed as follows:—

President.—Louis Riel, Esq.

Judge of Supreme Court.—James Ross, Esq., M. A.

Sheriff.—Henry McKenny, Esq.

Coroner.—Dr. Bird.

Postmaster General.—A. G. B. Bannatyne, Esq.

Collectors of Customs.—John Sutherland, Esq; Roger Goulet, Esq.

Secretary of State.—Thomas Bunn, Esq.

Assistant Secretary of State.—Louis Schmidt, Esq.

Secretary of the Treasury.—W. B. O'Donohue, Esq.

This was the second Provisional Government, formed, after the people had united, from representatives of English, French and Scotch.

On the 10th February, 1870, a ballot was taken in the convention for delegates to Canada and resulted in the election of Reverend J. N. Richot, Judge Black, and Alfred Scott.

In dismissing the convention, Riel said: "The First Provisional Government assumes the full responsibility for all its acts." Meaning by this:—

- (1) Taking up arms.
- (2) Keeping Governor McDougall out