

attempted to seat it at the Fort Garry, when the five hundred surveyors turned out to be a squadron of militia;

That the Hudson's Bay Company endeavored then to hand over to the invaders that government of the Northwest which England had so constantly neglected and so obstinately kept at the disposal of trading adventurers;

That the people of the Northwest resisted energetically the Hudson's Bay Company's iniquitous designs and the Ottawa dreadful scheme, and never failed to dignify the defense of their cause with expressions of loyalty to England;

That the British Government answered their magnanimous fidelity by promptly appointing as governor of the Northwest the Ottawa governor himself—that is to say, the very man in the empire whose position, whose advisers, and consequently whose whole interest were more certainly against the Northwest; appointment conspicuously partial and unjust, which threw at once all the chances on the strongest side, in oppressing the weak as much as possible;

That the British Government then left the Northwest without administration, exposed to the many perils of anarchy and invasion;

The undersigned, your humble petitioner, submits and respectfully claims that by committing this other remarkable series of outrages against the Northwest, the British Government have again forfeited all title and right of governing it;

Your humble petitioner submits that the people of the Northwest, left to themselves, had to organize and to constitute a state of their own, to take care of public affairs, and for their protection;

That the honorable William McTavish, then still governor, in name, of the Northwest, having been asked by a convention of the people's representatives if he could approve of the new state, entreated them to push on their work; and his answer to the Hon. John Sutherland and Mr. Frazer, the two members waiting on him, was "For God's sake, form a government."

That when the convention sat, Hon. John Black, governor *ad interim* and judge of the H. B. Company, was one of the members elected by the people and consented to act as chairman of the convention;

That the people's representatives, numbering forty, being in session at Fort Garry, then formed a government and elected your humble petitioner as its highest employee, February 11, 1870;

That more than two-thirds, thirty-two out of the forty, voted the new government into existence and elected your humble petitioner at the head of it;

That the eight other members were in favor to that extent that they abstained from offering any opposition;

That immediately after, Hon. Judge Black, H. B. Company governor *ad interim* and chairman of the convention, left his seat and gave it courteously to the president of the provisional government, according to the convention's vote;

That, on the same occasion, Hon. John Black, H. B. Company's governor *ad interim* and judge, having been chosen by the president of the Northwest as one of the delegates to Ottawa, accepted the appointment, with the company's approval;

That some days later the Hon. D. A. Smith, a commissioner sent by the governor-general to the Northwest, went in company with Reverend Archdeacon McLean, now Bishop of the Saskatchewan, and persuaded the districts whose eight representatives had remained neutral to join and to acknowledge your humble petitioner as president of the provisional government; and Hon. D. A. Smith's advice having been acceded to, the undersigned, your humble petitioner, received then the unanimous support of the people.

As a result the new state of the Northwest, in '70; its government were legally constituted and the election of its president was carried out according to regular constitutionality.

Your humble petitioner respectfully submits that as soon as the new state was organized, its government formed, and its president elected, four commissioners, Reverend J. B. Thibault, Vicar-General, Colonel de Salaberry, Hon. D. A. Smith, and his lordship, Archbishop Taché, appointed by the Crown, invited the undersigned to send delegates to Ottawa, and there to negotiate the terms of the federal pact between the East and the Northwest.

That such invitation was a recognition by the Crown itself, of the state, of the government, and of the president of the Northwest.

Your humble petitioner submits, that he appointed in his official capacity a delegation according to the repeated and pressing invitation received; that his delegates proceeded to Ottawa, were received by the Crown on his credentials and admitted to treat on his instructions, which was another irrefragable official recognition of the state, of the government, and of the president of the Northwest; by whom? By the Crown.

Your humble petitioner respectfully submits that his delegates having, at the outset, set forth that they could not begin to treat without the guarantee of a general and complete amnesty, and having required it as a condition *sine qua non*, the