

BIOGRAPHY OF

inter-married with the natives, and produced the Metis, or half-breeds. These also hunted the buffalo, and often feuds arose between these two sections. The government was carried on by a "Governor and Council of Assinaboia," composed of Hudson Bay Company officers. At this time there were probably 12,000 people in the settlement—a mixed population of English, Scotch, French half-breeds, and a few Europeans, Canadians and Americans. Canada, at that time, was regarded as a foreign country, almost as much so as America. Indeed, the latter country, by reason of its proximity, seemed less foreign than the new Dominion. There was a strong spirit of disaffection against the rule of the Company. This was fostered by agitators, chief of whom was Dr. Schultz, and later Louis Riel.

In 1867, immediately after Confederation, the movement was started for bringing under the control of the Dominion Government the vast territories of the North-West. This meant negotiations with the Hudson Bay Company for the release of their claims. These negotiations were carried on in London, in 1868, the Canadian Government being represented by Messrs. Cartier and McDougall. After some time, it was finally agreed that the Company should receive £300,000, should have one-twentieth of the land of the fertile belt, and 45,000 acres adjacent to their trading posts.

So far, so good, but the agreement made by the shareholders in London had ignored the officers and employees of the Company, and also the population of the North-West. The arrangement was