

Scotland ; I appointed Alfred H Scott, he is dead also, and these three delegates started, with our bill of rights of twenty conditions, to go and put it before the Canadian Government, and when our delegates came to Ottawa the Government wanted to treat them as Indians, I suppose.

Father Ritchot said if you don't give me in writing my acknowledgement as a delegate, I will go back and you will go with your bayonets to the North-West—acknowledge my status—I am invited, I come and what was the answer ? Our delegates had been invited three times. How were they received in Canada ? They were arrested. To show exactly what is the right of nations, they were arrested. They had not a formal trial, but the fact remains that they were arrested, and the protest of Rev. Father Ritchot is still in the document. However, there was a treaty. Sir John A. Macdonald was delegated, the late Sir George Cartier was delegated to treat with the people, with those three delegates, now how were they acknowledged ? Were they acknowledged as delegates of Riel ? Oh ! no, they were acknowledged as the delegates of the North-West. The late Mr. Howe, in his acknowledgement of the delegates, and in notifying them who had been delegated by the Canadian Government to treat with them, told them that they were acknowledged as the delegates of the North-West. Then it was the cause of the North-West that they represented. It is acknowledged by the Canadian Government by that very same fact that fifteen years ago, the treaty of which I am speaking was the treaty of the North-West—of the delegates of the North-West, and if by trying to say that it was the delegates of the North-West they wanted to avoid the fact that I was no being at all, the whole world knows that it is not so, they cannot avoid me, and Sir John A. Macdonald himself, in the report of the committee of inquiry about those very same troubles, the committee which sat in 1874, Sir John A. Macdonald said : “ I think we acknowledge Riel in his status of a Governor.” What was that treaty ? Was it an Indian affair ? If it had been an Indian affair, Manitoba would not have been as it is, would not be as it is. We had the Manitoba Act, there was an agreement between the two delegates how the whole North-West interest would be considered, and how the Canadian Government would treat with the North-West, and then having settled all the matter of principle, those very principles, the agreement was made those very principles would be inaugurated in Manitoba first. There was a Province erected with responsible Government. The lands they were kept by the Dominion. As the Half-breed people were the majority of Manitoba, as at their stage of civilization they were not supposed to be able to administer their lands, we thought that, at that time, it was a reasonable concession to let them go, not because we were willing to let them go, but because it seemed impracticable to have the administration of the lands. Still one of the conditions was that the people of the North-West wanted the administration of their lands. The Half-breeds had a million and the land grant of 1,400,000 acres owned about 9,500,000, if I mistake not, which is about 1-7 of the land of Manitoba. You will see the origine of my insanity and of my foreign policy. 1-7 of the land was granted to the people, to the Half-breeds of Manitoba, English and French, Protestant and Catholic. There was no distinction whatever, but in the subdivision, in the allotment of those lands between the Half-breeds of Manitoba, it came that they had 240 acres of land. Now the Canadian Government say, that we will give to the Half-breeds of the North-West, 240 acres. If I was insane I would say yes, but as I have had, thank God, all the time, the conscienciousness that I had a certain degree of reason, I have made up my mind to make use of it and to say that 1-7 of the lands in Manitoba, as the inauguration of a principle in the North-West, had to bring to the Half-breeds of the North-West, at least as soon as possible, the guarantee for the future that a seventh of the lands will also be given to them. And seeing and yourself understanding how it is difficult for a small population as the Half-breed population to have their voice heard, I said what belongs to us ought to be ours. Our right to the North-West is acknowledged, our co-proprietorship with the Indians is acknowledged, since one-seventh of the lands is given us, but we have not the means to be heard, what will we do ? I said to some of my friends : If there is no other way, we will make the people who have no country understand that we have a country here which we have ceded on condition, we want the seventh of the