

It was in virtue of this Act that Charles de Reinhard was brought from the Red River district to Quebec, in May, 1818, to undergo his trial for a murder committed on the Winnipeg River, two years previously.

In October, 1818, several trials for murder were held at York (Toronto) under a commission issued in virtue of this statute by the Lieutenant Governor of Lower Canada. In these cases, the accused had been apprehended in the North West Territories and conveyed to Upper Canada.

In the same year Lord Selkirk caused several parties to be tried at York (Toronto) for murder, arson, and robbery committed, on the Frog Plains, Red River district. The trials were held under the Statute which I have just quoted, under a commission from Lower Canada.

In Reinhard's case, and in the cases brought by Lord Selkirk, the jurisdiction of the Courts was attacked on the ground that the Frog Plains and Winnipeg River were within the limits of the Province of Upper Canada, and not included in the Territories mentioned in the Statute 43, George III, chapter 138.

The Court at York refused to render any decision upon the question of jurisdiction, while the Judges at Quebec held that, as the westerly boundary of Upper Canada was a line on the meridian of 88° 50' West from London, the River Winnipeg was beyond the limits of that Province.

But doubts were entertained by some whether the provisions of the Act 43 George III, ch. 138, extended to the territories granted by Charles II to the Hudson's Bay Company; and as murders and riots were increasing to an alarming extent, owing to the rivalry of the North West Company of Montreal and the Hudson's Bay Company proper, a Statute was passed in 1821 by the Imperial Parliament (1-2 George IV, chapter 66) from which the following extracts are taken :

"Whereas doubts have been entertained whether the provisions of an Act passed in the 43rd year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the 3rd, (ch. 138), extended