

DEPARTMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE PROVINCES.

OTTAWA, 17th December, 1869.

The Honorable Wm. McDougall, C.B., Pembina.

Received by the Honorable Wm. McDougall, 25th December.

SIR,—Your despatch of the 29th November reached this office on the 15th instant, and created some apprehension, that you were about to issue a Proclamation, announcing the formal transfer of the Territory, which has not yet taken place, and to organize or countenance movements, which, however well intended, would have been without the sanction of law. The receipt of the papers, A. B. C., which did not come to hand till the following day, relieved this anxiety, and I have now to convey to you the satisfaction with which the numbered paragraphs in the paper marked "B" were read by the Governor General and Council.

The despatches sent to you on the 19th and 29th November, and 7th, 8th, 10th, and 11th of December, will, before this reaches you, have explained the views taken by this Government of the situation of affairs in the North-West, and the nature of the correspondence with the Imperial Government which has not yet closed. No notice has yet been received here of the issue of the Queen's Proclamation annexing the country to Canada, or of the payment of the purchase money. By this day's mail an elaborate Minute of Council goes to England.

You will, until further advised, abstain from all movements in excess of your authority, and do nothing by which the Governor and officers of the Hudson's Bay Company may be relieved of the responsibility which now rests upon them.

Should any telegraphic notice of the issue of the Queen's Proclamation reach you, I am commanded to desire that you will refrain from any action thereupon until you receive a copy of the Proclamation through this office.

I have, &c.,

JOSEPH HOWE,

Secretary of State for the Provinces.

LAROSE'S FARM, PEMBINA, U. S.

December 2nd, 1869.

The Honorable Joseph Howe, Secretary of State, &c., Ottawa.

Received by the Secretary of State for the Provinces 18th Decr. 1869.

SIR,—By the last mail, under date 29th November, I reported that I was still at this place, and that I had neither received official instruction for my guidance after assuming the Government of the North-West Territories nor any notice of the passing of the Order of Her Majesty in Council for the transfer of the North-West Territory to the Dominion. I also detailed at some length, the events which had occurred during my previous report, and indicated some of the measures I had prepared and proposed to adopt, on and after the 1st December. I also enclosed, in a separate letter, copies of correspondence respecting the Government Stores at Fort Garry, and the steps I recommended to be taken for their protection. I hope these letters have reached Ottawa safely, and assuming they have, I proceed to detail, briefly what has since occurred.

Fearing, from information I received, that my messenger with copies of the Proclamation announcing the first of December, as the date of transfer of authority from the Hudson's Bay Company to the Dominion had been intercepted, I entrusted additional copies in English and French to Colonel Dennis, who, with a trusty guide, started on the night of the 29th ultimo (the coldest night we have yet experienced), for Fort Garry. I also commissioned him to act as my "Lieutenant," and as a "Conservator of the Peace," in arraying the loyal inhabitants in defence of law and order. I gave him large powers and as he is fully aware of my views and plans, and the nature of the authority under which