

affairs, that I might the better judge what course we should pursue in the future. In prosecuting my enquiries I received much kind assistance from C. G. Lawrie, Esq., the publisher of the *Saskatchewan Herald*.

Battleford is located on the south bank of Battle River, about two miles above its confluence with the Saskatchewan. The business part occupies the level bottom near the river, while on the hill farther back are the residences of the Governor, the Stipendiary Magistrate, and several government officials. The population is about 300, one-half of whom are Roman Catholics. There is no resident Protestant minister in Battleford at present, but a lay agent of the Church of England has charge of a school, and conducts service on the Sabbath. A most determined effort is being made by the Roman Catholics to obtain a controlling influence in the place, and with no small success. The Governor's Secretary, the Registrar, and several other prominent officials, are Roman Catholics; and only a short time before my arrival, two Protestant Farm Instructors were dismissed, and their places filled with Catholics. At the very time of my visit the R. C. Bishop and two priests were in the place in close and earnest consultation.

The use of the school-house having been obtained, I preached on Sunday evening to a most attentive congregation. During Monday forenoon I made a careful examination of the place with the view of securing, if possible, what would be a suitable site for a church in the future. I found, however, that although Battleford has been the capital of the Territory for several years past, *the town plot is not yet surveyed*; and that the most that could be done would be to buy out some squatter's claim. The Roman Catholics have put up a log shanty to serve as a chapel, and on the ground of occupancy lay claim to *thirty acres* in the town; and as their friends are in power there is little doubt but they will get it. There are no outlying settlements as yet, and as the soil in this region is somewhat inferior to that in other parts of the territory, it is not likely that settlement will be rapid; but if Battleford continues to be the seat of government, as is most probable, a town of considerable importance may soon spring up, and we should be prepared, on short notice, to send in a man and establish a cause.

On Monday afternoon I left Battleford, and early on the following Thursday morning reached Fort Carlton, and was courteously received and entertained by L. Clarke, Esq., Chief Factor of the H. B. Company's posts in the Lower Saskatchewan District. Here

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