

legislative purposes. Its Courts hold in abeyance all legal decisions on disputed points that have arisen since it assumed to control the liquor traffic. It has not attempted to uphold the Municipal Council of its own creation, in enforcing its assessments or in carrying out its by-laws. It has witnessed, apparently without protest, an arbitrary and quixotic administration of Dominion laws, which has had the effect of exasperating the people it claimed to protect, and of bringing law and order generally into discredit. Notwithstanding that the territory is represented in the Dominion Parliament as an integral part of Ontario, the Manitoba Government allowed, if it did not incite, the residents of Rat Portage to vote at the general election of 1882 in the Manitoba constituency of Selkirk. It established a Court of Civil Jurisdiction, but its judges, though armed with its authority, refrained from punishing a recalcitrant defendant for contempt. It established a Registry Office for deeds, well knowing that, pending the settlement of the boundary dispute, there can be no sure titles to land, and that if the dispute were settled in favour of the Dominion, Manitoba would not own a rood of land, a timber limit or a mining location in the territory. A conflict between the Provinces of Ontario and Manitoba has been avoided, but with the result that the confusion of authority is greater than ever.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE BURDEN,
Commissioner.

Toronto, 10th February, 1883.