

surrounded me for fifteen years, I think that I have been called to do something which at least in the North-West nobody has done yet, and in some way I think that to a certain number of people the verdict against me to day is a proof that may be I am a prophet, may be Riel is a prophet. He suffers for it. Now, I have been hunted as an elk for fifteen years. David has been seventeen, I think. I would have to be about two years still; if the misfortunes that I have had to go through were to be as long as those of the old David, I would have two years still, but I hope it will come sooner.

I have two reasons why I would ask that sentence should not be passed upon me, against me. You will excuse me, you know my difficulty in speaking English, and I have had no time to prepare, Your Honor. . . . Even had I prepared anything it would have been imperfect enough, and I have not prepared, and I wish you would excuse what I have to say, the way which I will be able, perhaps, to express it.

Q. The troubles of the Saskatchewan are not to be taken as an isolated fact. They are the result of fifteen years war. The head of that difficulty lies in the difficulty of Red River. The troubles of the Red River were called the troubles of the North-West, and I would like to know if the troubles of the Saskatchewan have not the name to-day of being the troubles of the North-West? So the troubles of 1869, being the troubles of the North-West and the troubles of 1885 being still the troubles of the North-West, the suggestion comes naturally to the mind of the observer if it is a continuation of the troubles of the North-West, if the troubles of 1885 are a continuation of the troubles of 1869. Or if they are two troubles entirely different, I say they are not. Canada, no, I ought not to say Canada, because it was a certain number of individuals, perhaps seven or eight hundred that can have passed for Canada, but they came to Red River, and they wanted to take possession of the country without consulting the people. True it was the Half-breed people. There were a certain number of white pioneers among the population, but the great majority were Half-breeds.

We took up arms against the invaders from the East without knowing them. They were so far apart from us, on the other side of the Lakes, that it cannot be said that we had any hatred against them. We did not know them. They came without notification. They came boldly. We said: Who are they? They said: We are the possessors of the country. Well, knowing that it was not true, we done against those parties coming from the East what we used to do against the Indians from the South and from the West, when they would invade us. Public opinion in the States helped us a great deal. . . . I don't mean to say that it is needed to obtain justice on this side of the line that the States should interfere, but at that time, as there was no telegraph communication between the Eastern Provinces and the North-West, no railroad, and as the natural way of going to Canada was through the United States, naturally all the rumors, all the news had to pass by the States, and on their passage they had to meet the remarks and observations of the American people. The American people were favorable to us; besides, the Opposition in Canada done the same thing and said to the Government: Well, why did you go into the North-West without consulting the people? We took up arms, as I stated, and we made hundreds of prisoners, and we negotiated. A treaty was made. That treaty was made by a delegation of both parties. Whether you consider the organization of the Red River people at that time as a Provisional Government or not, the fact is that we were recognized as a body, tribal, if you like to call it so, as a social body, with whom the Canadian Government treated. Did they treat with them as they treat with Indians? It will be for them to say that they did not. Since Sir John A. Macdonald and the late Sir George Cartier were delegated by the Dominion Government to meet our delegates, delegates who had been appointed by me, the President, (that is the name that was given to me by the Council,) the President of that Council, and our delegates had been invited three times, first, by Donald A. Smith, a member of the Privy Council at that time; second, by the Reverend Mr. Thibault, the late Reverend Mr. Thibault, third, by Archbishop Taché, who had been called from Rome for the purpose of pacifying the North-West. When those three delegates had invited us to send delegates we thought that it was safe to send delegates, and I appointed the Reverend Father Richot, now curate of Saint Norbert, in Manitoba; I appointed the late Judge Black, who died in