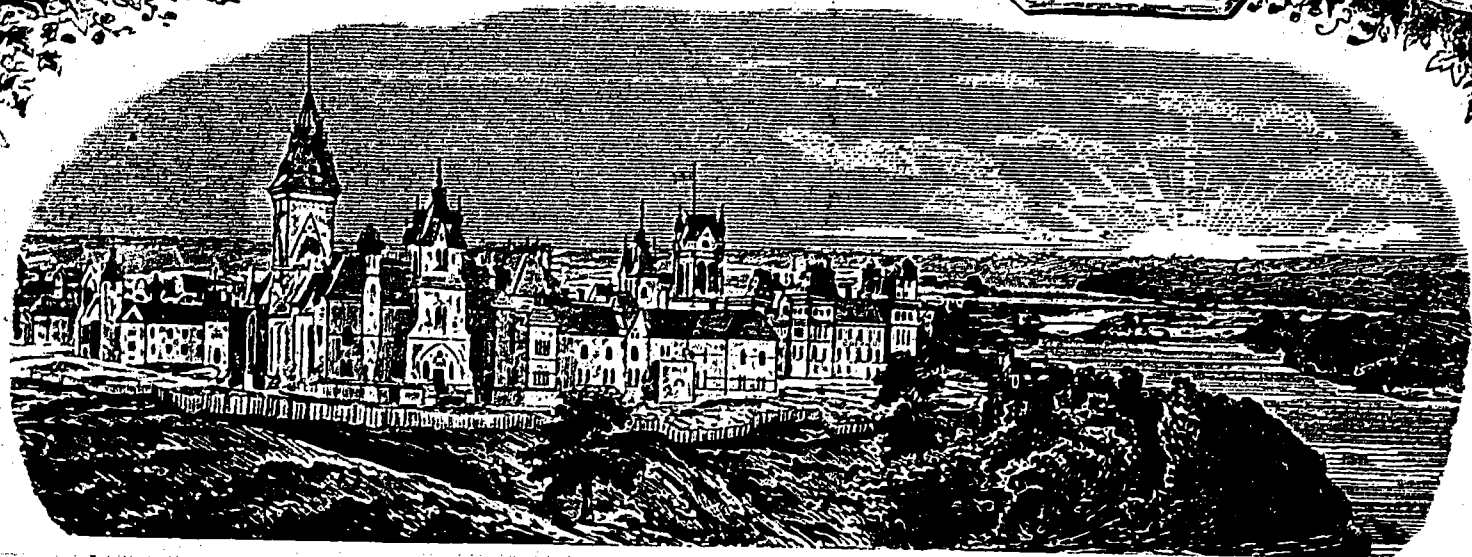


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GOVERNOR McTAVISH, H. B. COMPANY.

WILLIAM McTAVISH, Esquire, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company's Territories, is the representative of the Board of Directors of that corporation in British North America. He exercises a general control over the factors and other officers and servants of the Company, and presides at the annual Council of their Fur Trade held every summer at Norway House or other most convenient locality within the Company's northern possessions.

Mr. McTavish went to Red River Settlement in the summer of 1857 as the Chief Factor in charge of the Company's trading interests in that section of the country known as Red River District. Of this division Upper Fort Garry is the head quarters, as indeed it may now be considered of the whole of Rupert's Land and the North-West, although York Factory is still in some important Hudson's Bay aspects the most central point. Red River District extends from the United States' frontier to Lake Winnipeg, and from the Red River westward over an extent of about one hundred miles of prairie country. At present it possesses five subordinate outposts of more or less importance. These are called Pembina, Lower Fort Garry, White Horse Plain, Portage la Prairie, and Manitobah. At the Pembina post the Hon. Mr. McDougall was met by the insurgents and ordered to withdraw from the Territory in November last, and in the following month Lieut.-Col. Dennis conferred a certain degree of fame on Lower Fort Garry by selecting it as the stronghold, whence he issued his commission as Conservator of the Peace.

As Governor of Assiniboia, Mr. McTavish succeeded Frank G. Johnson, Esquire, on the retirement of that gentleman in 1859 from the joint offices of Recorder of Rupert's Land and local head of the Executive. The municipal district of Assiniboia extends over an area comprised within a circle of which the radius is fifty miles, and of which Fort Garry is the centre. Practically the only portion of this area over which cultivation or

settlement extends lies along the banks of the Assiniboine and Red rivers, which unite at Fort Garry. This district is provided with rude municipal institutions, courts, magistrates, and the machinery for raising the only tax imposed in the country—that, namely, on account of Customs. The working out of the institutions of this petty government is interfered with as little as possible by the Hudson's Bay Company, who, however, appoint the Governor, the members of the Council, and the Justices of the Peace. With these exceptions the local government appoints its own officials. The appointment by

the Company of Justices and Councillors is almost a formality. Commissions are given on the recommendation of the Governor, who selects the most influential settlers belonging to the various sections of the Colony for his nominations.

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On the death of the late Sir George Simpson, in the autumn of 1860, Mr. McTavish became Acting Governor of Rupert's Land. In the following year, however, the appointment was permanently conferred on Alexander Grant Dallas, Esq., previously a member of the Board of the Company in London, and its special agent on the Pacific Coast. Mr. Dallas fixed his residence as Governor at Red River, where, as Chief Magistrate of the Territory, he superseded the Governor of Assiniboia, and may be said to have assumed the charge of the local government.

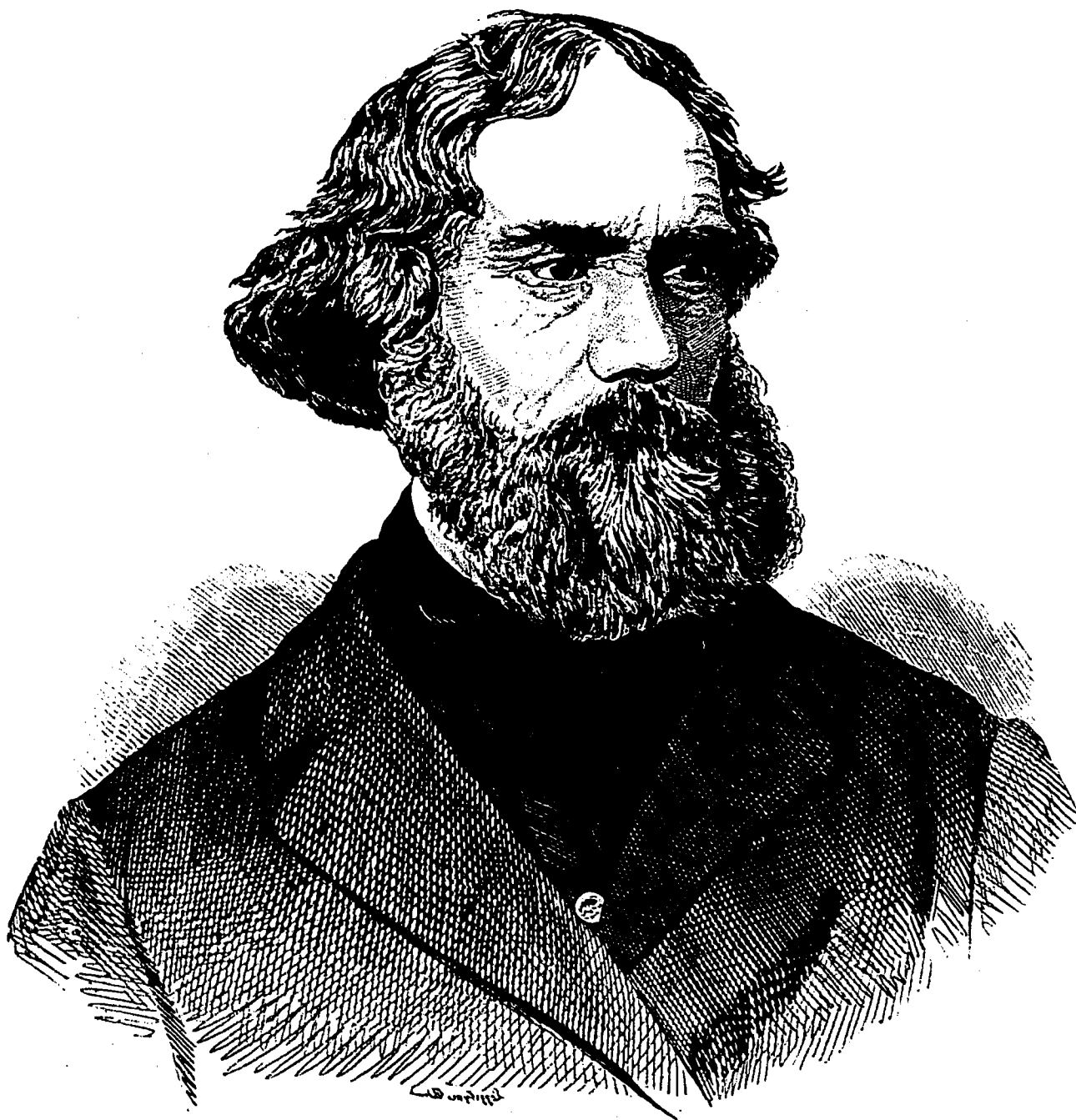
On his retirement from the office in 1864, Mr. Dallas was succeeded by Mr. McTavish, who, however, continued to hold the position of Governor of Assiniboia.

Within the six years which have elapsed since his accession to the head of affairs, the position of Red River has materially changed. Immigration has proceeded at an increasing annual rate, and from owing its chief importance to the fact of its being the locality of the principal plain depôt of the Hudson's Bay Company, the Settlement has become the projected head-quarters of Canadian interest in the Territory of Winnipeg, and, for the present, of the whole North-West.

Since 1864 frequent troubles have agitated the isolated

Colony. Locusts have during no single season entirely withdrawn from its borders, and utterly destroyed the harvest of one season. The weakness of a government unsupported by material force has been a temptation irresistible to the ill disposed to create scenes of disorder in the accomplishment of their ends. On several occasions the personal influence of Mr. McTavish has been the chief preventive against scenes such as now desolate the Colony.

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