

Keewatin Act were systematically evaded by the informing constables. It now becomes my duty to state that serious complaints have been made against the Dominion Police Commissioner McCabe, and that similar complaints were made against his predecessors who held office in 1879-80. On 18th June, 1882, charges were made to the Minister of Justice at Ottawa against Mr. McCabe by a discharged official, named O'Keefe. O'Keefe had occupied the position of Chief Constable; was in the confidence of, and was partly paid by, the contractors, but had been dismissed by the Police Commissioner, ostensibly for disobedience of orders. O'Keefe's charges against Mr. McCabe were of a very grave character but, so far as is known, without any inquiry having been instituted into their truth or otherwise, and without any opportunity having been afforded the accused to rebut them, O'Keefe was, at the end of August ordered, at the instance of the Minister of Justice, to return to his duty as Chief Constable—a position he has since continued to hold. Some of the accusations against the Commissioner were openly advanced by private citizens and by the local newspaper, and quite recently, at the indignation meeting before adverted to, a series of resolutions impugning Mr. McCabe's conduct passed without a dissenting voice. A draft of those resolutions was forwarded to the Minister of Justice with a view to the institution of an enquiry, but nothing appears as yet to have been done to satisfy the alleged grievances of the complainants.

I may add, as some of the results of the recent excitement at Rat Portage, that the Messrs. Rideout, the keepers of the licensed hotel, have brought actions against the Police Commissioner for illegal arrest and imprisonment, and claim damages in \$10,000 and \$5,000 respectively. They also brought an action against Chief Constable O'Keefe at the sitting of the County Court of Varennes in December, for illegally holding a quantity of liquor for which a writ of replevin had issued. The plaintiffs argued that any writ issued from the County Court of Varennes should be respected, that it was the duty of the Constable to give up the goods, and that they (the plaintiffs) were entitled to damages for the loss they had sustained. It was also contended that O'Keefe had no right to seize the ale, as the Keewatin Act was not in force in Rat Portage. The Judge stated that this was an important case; he would agree to consider the matter fully, and would reserve judgment. No decision on this case has yet been rendered.

The non-ratification of the Boundary Award is not only demoralizing the population and seriously prejudicing law and order in the territory, but settlement is being retarded and legitimate development discouraged. Not a street in the town is yet graded; huge boulders protrude on the roadways; there is no pretence at drainage or any other sanitary improvement, though the natural facilities therefor are excellent. No public buildings exist unless a log school-house built in 1879 by subscription, can be so called. There has been no attempt at roadmaking in the neighbourhood of the town; the only amelioration in this direction has been the building of a bridge over the railway track connecting the Hudson Bay town lots separated by the cutting. This work, done at the cost of the Hudson Bay Company, has not yet been practically utilized. The corporation organised under a Manitoba charter has been unable to accomplish any town improvements for lack of the necessary funds. Its six months of existence has had no other results than the passing of by-laws which have not been enforced, the making of an assessment which it