

not be over before 2 o'clock, but I will send down and let you know. Matters from information that has reached me, look serious; but it is very difficult, judging of affairs of this kind here; and sometimes when the case looks bad, the whole thing subsides. I have seen to many difficulties here got over quietly to despair until the worst has taken place; but I must allow, there are incidents in the present case that have not been in former troubles.

Yours truly,

W. McTAVISH.

[D]

RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.

To WIT :—

\* \* \* \* maketh Oath and Saith :—

During the afternoon of yesterday, some twenty men or thereabouts, fully armed, made their appearance at the crossing of the River Sale, on the road between here and Pembina; and other and smaller parties of men, also armed, kept coming in during the afternoon and evening, till as many as forty were in the party.

That the said party of forty men are now billeted (or were when the deponent left home this a.m., at which time they had sent off some men for more provisions) round in the adjacent houses.

That the men composing the said party, deponent believes, all belong to the parishes of St. Norbert, above mentioned, and St. Vital, and that the avowed object of their meeting in arms, and waiting at the said Point, was to turn back the new Governor, Mr. McDougall, and not allow him to enter further into the Colony. One of the men in conversation with the deponent who was naturally anxious to find out the meaning of such an assemblage with arms in their hands, told the deponent the above was their object, and further said that if the Governor persisted in attempting to come further than that point, i.e., the crossing of the River Sale, they would shoot him.

The deponent saith further, that he was informed by this party, and believes the same (inasmuch as he saw a number of horsemen passing previously), that another party mounted, supposed to consist of twenty men or more, are now in advance, somewhere about Scratching River, accompanied by a man named Riel, whose intention is to stop the Governor, and submit to him several questions, or rather demands, in the event of refusing which, he is to be warned not to proceed.

There is a further and third party between the two points mentioned, which this deponent, from information received, believes to number forty men.

Should the Governor persist in coming forward, notwithstanding repeated warnings, these parties will fall back on the reserve at the river Sale, and then final action will be taken as above mentioned, should he still further endeavor to force his way on to the settlement.

The deponent further saith that, among other houses in the vicinity where certain of the forty men at the river Sale are billeted, ten of the armed party find quarters at the house of the Curé, Rev. Père Ritchot.

Finally, that the deponent seriously believes that the said men are truly in earnest, and that without prompt action be taken by the authorities to avert the same, a serious calamity is about to ensue, in an outrage which may be of a fatal character, on the person of the Honorable gentleman now about entering the colony to assume the charge of Government.

\* \* \*

Sworn before me at Fort Garry,  
this 22nd day of October, 1869.

WILLIAM COWAN, J. P.