

[Inclosure 3 in No. 433.—Correspondence of Louis Riel with United States consul at Winnipeg.]

(1) *Mr. Taylor to Mr. Riel.*

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Winnipeg, B. N. A., July 27, 1885.

SIR: Your letter of July 21 was received by me on the 24th of July and has been carefully considered.

I have forwarded a copy to the State Department at Washington, accompanied by your communication to Dr. R. Elset of July 8, and a full report of the proceedings in your case before the stipendiary magistrate at Regina.

I shall promptly advise yourself or your counsel of any action upon your communication by the Washington authorities.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES W. TAYLOR.

(2) *Mr. Riel to Mr. Taylor.*

PRISON DE REGINA,
(no date) since August 1.

SIR: I have received your true favor of the 24th ultimo. The number of my thanks to you is equal to that of our stars; and the sincerity of my acknowledgment shines out of my heart during my misfortune, trying to harmonize with the gentle bright colors of the American flag.

I have the honor to send you, as best I can, a part of my address to the court on Friday, the last of July. I have not presently under my hand copy of my observations as to the imperfection of the jury, as to the strange mode of their selection by an officer of the Crown, neither as to the incompetency of the court. Perhaps you will be able to see it in public print.

Saturday, August 1, I asked the court for the appointment of a commission to give me opportunity to produce all the circumstances of my case, and for the formation of a special tribunal before which I could appeal. My view is this: The troubles of '85 in the Saskatchewan are the continuation of the troubles of '68-'70, which the Ottawa government have never duly settled; and I wish that a thorough investigation be made on the question of those troubles from '69 to the present time.

The Ottawa government have adopted concerning the half-breed and Indian title to lands an altogether different view and principle than those adopted by the American Government on the same question. The annuities paid by the United States to their Indians are distributed to them as donations. That principle leaves the administration of Indian affairs at liberty to adopt a course of action such as circumstances direct best. But on this side of the line a fixed Indian policy has been adopted, and its principle has been made constitutional, thereby giving the Indians and the half-breeds a constitutional platform. The government of the Dominion, by its treaty with the delegates of the Northwest, agreed that a certain proportion of the lands be granted to the half-breeds throughout the territory, and to inaugurate the principle in Manitoba. One million four hundred thousand acres were guaranteed to them by the thirty-first clause of the constitution of that province. As its area contained at that time only about 9,500,000 acres, the land grant was about one-seventh of the whole superficie.

The half-breeds of the Northwest want that the same proportion be guaranteed to them; that their seventh be valued and understood to represent a capital in the hands of the government, and that an interest be paid to them every year on that capital.

And as the half-breeds of Manitoba have had the constitutional guaranty of that seventh of the land on account of their Indian title, the Indian tribes of the Northwest are naturally dissatisfied that the Indian title should carry less for them than for the half-breeds. Besides, the terms of the thirty-first clause of the Manitoba act state that the half-breed land grant is made toward extinguishing the Indian title, which give the Indians to understand that when the Federal Government will have given as much to the pure Indians as it gave the half-breeds, then only will the Indian title entirely be extinguished. The matter at stake is not a small one, considering the Northwest to have a superficie of about 1,195,000,000 acres of land.

The Ottawa government disregards most openly the very views which they have so bound themselves by constitution to follow. On the other hand, the half-breeds and Indians, being unwilling to give their constitutional rights, have petitioned until the Ottawa Government resolved to silence them by force, as they are just now doing.

Mr. Consul, this contradictory policy, it seems to me, ought to be modified seriously, either by repealing altogether the thirty-first clause of the Manitoba constitution or by fulfilling it. Otherwise the Indian and half-breed question, as it stands on this side of the line, may react fearfully amongst the American Indians and half-breeds. For that reason I have thought that inasmuch as that reaction may disturb