

on which you had employed him, together with a copy of your letter, addressed to General Hunt, the United States officer commanding at Fort Abercrombie, with reference to the removal to that place of the arms and ammunition which you had stored at Georgetown.

I have, &c.,

JOSEPH HOWE,
Secretary of State for the Provinces.

LAROSE'S FARM, PEMBINA, U.S., 29th November, 1869.

*The Honorable Joseph Howe, Secretary of State, &c.,
Ottawa.*

Received by SIR,—I have the honor to report, that I am still at Pembina in the
Secretary of Territory of the United States (Messrs. Richards, Provencher, and Begg
State for the Provinces, 15th being with me), and unable, in consequence of the continued occupation
December, 1869. of the road by armed men, to proceed to Fort Garry.

I have further to report that I have not received any instructions for my guidance on and after the day of the transfer of the Territory to Canada, nor any notice of the Order in Council, which has no doubt been passed to effect it.

In these circumstances, I am compelled to act upon the general powers and directions of my Commission, and of the Acts of Parliament, Canadian and Imperial, which seem to bear upon the case.

I have accordingly prepared a Proclamation to be issued on the first day of December, reciting so much of the several Acts of Parliament as seemed necessary to disclose the requisite authority, and stating by way of recital the fact of surrender by the Hudson's Bay Company, acceptance by Her Majesty, and Transfer to Canada, from and after the 1st December, A.D., 1869. These facts I gather from the newspapers, from a private letter to me of the Deputy Governor of the Company, and my own knowledge before I left Ottawa, that the 1st of December had been agreed upon as the date of the transfers.

In the present state of affairs in the settlement it is of the utmost importance to announce the transfer of authority in the most authentic and solemn manner possible, in order to give confidence and the protection of legality to the acts of the loyal and well disposed, and to put the mal-contents and their American advisers and sympathizers publicly and technically in the wrong. Several messages have been sent, urging me to assume authority and to authorize action *at once* against the French half-breeds, but as my previous reports will show, I decided to keep strictly within my commission, and referred those persons to the local authority for advice and direction. On the 24th inst., however, Riel and his party took possession, without resistance, of the public offices in the Fort, seized the public records and papers, and made prisoners of the Treasurer and Officers in charge of the public funds. I have not heard whether they have removed Governor McTavish from his official residence, but he is evidently *hors de combat* personally and officially. I have had no communication from him since the 19th inst., directly or indirectly, although in his last note he promised to communicate further immediately. As I have found no serious difficulty in sending and receiving from the settlement communications of a private character, I infer that the rebels have imprisoned the Governor so closely that nothing is allowed to reach him or proceed from him of which they disapprove.

On the evening of the same day, Riel made a demonstration upon the Government provisions under the charge of Mr. Snow, pretending that he only wanted to make an inventory of them. Some Canadians employed on the survey, being in the neighbourhood and indignant at this move of the rebels, as well as apprehensive that the possession of these provisions by them would greatly strengthen their position, determined to remove them by force, if necessary, to the Lower Fort of the Hudson's Bay Company; but, on con-