

and give evidence on their behalf, which we now do, and we earnestly recommend them to the consideration and mercy of their judge.

HAROLD E. ROSS,
PETER TOMKINS,
WILLIAM TOMKINS,
THOS. E. JACKSON.

Sworn before me and acknowledged by the }
deponents, Harold Edward Ross, Peter }
Tomkins, William Tomkins and Thos. }
Eastwood Jackson, at Regina, in said }
Territories, this 7th day of August, }
A.D. 1885. }

DIXIE WATSON, *Clerk of the Court.*

THE QUEEN vs. JOSEPH ARCAND, EMMANUEL CHAMPAGNE, ALEXANDER P. FISHER, PIERRE GARIEPIE, PIERRE HENRI, MAXIME LEPINE, ALBERT MONKMAN, MOISE OUELETTE, PIERRE PARENTEAU, JOSEPH PILON, IGNACE POITRAS, THE ELDER, IGNACE POITRAS, THE YOUNGER, BAPTISTE ROCHELEAU, FRANCIS TOUROND, PATRICE TOUROND, BAPTISTE VANDAL, *ET AL.*

I, John W. Astley, of Prince Albert, in the North-West Territories, civil engineer, make oath and say:

I was in the rebel camp from the twenty-sixth of March, until the twelfth of May last, after the battle of Fish Creek. The half-breeds were notified by Louis Riel that they had better fight now to the last man, as no mercy would be shown them whether they surrendered or were taken prisoners, that they would be every man hung or shot, by the mounted police, or by the Canadian Government, and it was by thus terrifying them that the half-breeds were kept together.

On the twelfth of May I talked to Louis Riel for a long time about the rebellion and its results to himself. I said to him, "God knows you escaped from the consequences of your first rebellion through politics." He replied that he had, but, said he, "I have three chances or means of escape this time; first, through politics; secondly, through the papers of the Council. You must know that I have so arranged all the papers of the Council in such a way that everything will show that the Council did everything, and my name will not appear as doing anything, and should we arrange to do as you wish, the papers will all be found properly fixed in the Council chambers. My third chance will be on the question of my being the head of this new religion. If you will mention that to the general (meaning General Middleton) it will give me the greatest chance, as it will show that I wish that." I said to him, "What will I say to the general about the French half-breeds' claim?" "Oh," said Riel, "that is a very secondary consideration; I think of myself first." Again I said, "if there are any claims of the half-breeds a word now might be of great advantage to them, as the general will not forget to report it." Again he replied, "I assure you their chances are of a very secondary importance, my own safety is of the first importance." After this conversation I returned to General Middleton to try and get the troops to cease firing, and then came back to Riel, when I said to him, "Now, there is no time to lose; call your Council together and let us have an understanding, I will address them." Riel said, "that is quite unnecessary, I can do as I wish." Then I said, "you admit that you act without any Council," and he said, "yes, I do just as I wish." As I left Riel I said to him, "should I not be able to return you know what to do; come in all of you and surrender; if I can I will come back. The old man Ross and Onellette actually did await my return till they were shot dead.

I know Alexander P. Fisher, he was in the rebel camp. I always looked upon him as a kind of a soft-headed fellow who had no harm in him, he had no arms and did not do any harm to anyone. He is a kind of small wit, and would do almost any