

transactions, delivered an address at the opening session. He also assisted in the discussion of the second Bill of Rights, which this Council of forty drew up.

This second list is much more lengthy than the first. It contains twenty clauses, and shows that the points to be discussed in dealing with Canada, had received much consideration in the meantime. Like the first list, it contemplated the entry of the Northwest into the Canadian Confederation as a territory and not as a province. It made much more specific financial stipulations than the first bill did, and took great pains to guard the right of self government and the autonomy of the territorial legislature. The only reference to education which it contained is in clause 9, which reads: "That, while the Northwest remains a territory, the sum of \$25,000 a year be appropriated for schools, roads and bridges."

DELEGATES ARE APPOINTED.

Sir Donald requested the Council to send delegates to confer with the Dominion government at Ottawa, with a view to a proper understanding by that government of the "wants and wishes of the Red river people" and "to discuss and arrange for the representation of the country in parliament." In response to this invitation, Rev. Father Ritchot, Judge Black, and Mr. Alfred H. Scott, were appointed delegates. The provisional government, of which Riel was then head, and which had taken possession of Fort Garry, was endorsed and continued in office by the council, and a general election for members (to the number of 24) of a new assembly, was ordered. Turbulent times ensued, however. Some complications arose, partly through misunderstanding, partly on account of occasional unwise acts of the provisional government, and partly owing to the imperfect nature of the means of communication and travel then in existence. A number of the Canadians were taken as prisoners by Riel, who seems to have conducted himself on the whole with some moderation, when his origin and training are considered. He however lost control apparently both of himself and his followers, and without trial, or rather after a burlesque of a trial, at which the accused was not present, one of the prisoners, Thomas Scott, was sentenced to be shot. This sen-

tence was executed with cold blooded atrocity on March 4, 1870. This act was the beginning of the end of Riel, but as his history has no further connection with our subject, we shall leave him here. He seemed to have been a born agitator, not altogether destitute of good qualities. His intellectual endowments and his capacity for command have been extravagantly overestimated in some quarters. Want of balance and stability of character, as well as the heavy handicap which his lack of modern training and experience had placed upon him, unfitted him for the role which his ambition and his vanity impelled him to assume, and led ultimately to his tragic end. He was entirely devoid of executive capacity apparently, does not seem to have been over-courageous, and was in temperament of that peculiar combination of half-ecstatic, half-charlatan, which so readily obtains influence over the minds of semi-civilised people.

The elections, which had been ordered by the Council of Forty, were held on Feb. 26, 1870. The first meeting of the twenty-four members of the new assembly was held on March 9. A resolution was adopted, declaring the unaltered loyalty of the Northwest to the British crown. A constitution was also adopted, and the provisional government confirmed and declared to be the only "existing authority."

DELEGATES LEAVE FOR OTTAWA.

According to the arrangements made by the Council of Forty, the delegates appointed by that body, should have left for Ottawa as soon after the adjournment of the council as they could conveniently have done so. The turbulent occurrences to which we have alluded, of course made it impossible for them to leave in a properly representative capacity till matters had settled down again. When the act of the new assembly, however, had given the provisional government a constitutional status, that body gave its attention to the matter.

The delegates appointed by the Council of Forty were, as we have seen, Rev. Father Ritchot, Judge Black and Mr. A. H. Scott. Their instructions were embodied in the list of rights drawn up by the Council of Forty, which was Bill of Rights Number 2. This list, however, was not taken to Ottawa by the delegates. Much discussion having doubtless