

Government, and many of whom had come from the United States imbued with all the sentiments of representation and fair Government—a community almost unequalled in intelligence—it was attempted to superimpose, without explanation, without so much as “by your leave,” a governor in council, the most hateful of all institutions to those who knew of the struggles for Responsible Government. There was another objection to the impending change which came nearer home, and appealed more forcibly to the Métis. They were told that Canada had bought the land, and they had no guarantee that any notice would be taken of their claims. The Métis are a suspicious people, and they thought that the new comers would lose no time in dispossessing them of their little farms along the river and lake fronts, homesteads in which they or their fathers had lived happily ever since the days of the voyageurs and Bois Brulés. They seem to have felt, when the surveyors came to measure their farms, that their fears were about to be confirmed. The Rebellion was commenced by their walking resolutely up to the survey party and stepping on the chains. It is unnecessary to narrate the various incidents of the Rebellion. The Bill of Rights was passed by the people, and contained fifteen clauses. The first eleven clauses and the fifteenth covered the constitutional demands, and clauses thirteen and fourteen read as follows:—13. “That these rights be guaranteed by Mr. McDougall before he be admitted into this Territory. 14. If he has not the power himself to grant them, he must get an Act of Parliament passed expressly securing us the rights: and until such Act be obtained he must *stay outside the Territory*”—and stay out practically he did. He arrived at Pembina, on the International Boundary Line, October 30th, where he was handed a written notice not to advance any further. Nevertheless he moved his quarters to the Hudson's Bay post, two miles across the forbidden line. On the morning of November 3rd he found the post surrounded, and Mr. Hallet who accompanied him tied up to the tail-board of a Red River cart. He yielded to the argument of circumstances and retired again to American territory.

In Mr. McDougall's party was a gallant Captain whose deeds of valour were the cause of much amusement. Mr. McDougall himself says in the Dominion blue-book on this subject, that councils of prudence would not avail with him. He advanced as far as the River Sale where the rebels had erected a simple barricade across the trail. Seeing the obstruction, so the story goes, he arose in his cart, and with a Cromwellian sweep of his hand ordered the rebels to remove that “blawsted fence.” It is unnecessary to add that the “blawsted” article was not removed. It had become very evident by this time that some, at least, of the Manitobans were not anxious to be “admitted” into Confederation—at least not without some understanding as to future treatment. The new authorities, however, were bound to “admit” them, and as the people continued to refuse the invitation even more firmly, Colonel Dennis was appointed “Conservator of the Peace,” with full power to “assault, fire upon, pull down, or break into any fort, house, stronghold or other place in which the said armed men may be found.” After the publication of this proclamation of war the Rebellion was at its height, and indiscretion on the part of the rebel party was to be looked for—and it came in the execution of Thomas Scott.

Regarded, then, in the light of a constitutional struggle, no one can refuse a certain amount of his sympathies to the rebels, nor can he blind himself to the fact that Canada blundered in attempting to frighten Manitoba into a forced Confederation. It took but a short time for the people to discover that the new Governor had several hundred rifles in his luggage, and the fulminations of the “Conservator of the Peace” did not render them more tractable. It is not unlikely that the present disaffection in the Province towards the Dominion is seasoned by a feeling of reaction against the way we were “admitted.” At any rate the existing difficulties have led many, who might not otherwise have done so, to look into the previous history of the country, and as a result, it seems safe to say that Riel is coming in for all the admiration he deserves, and perhaps a good deal more.

It seems certain that the rebel movement has not received its due in Ontario, and equally certain that it is being overestimated in Manitoba. A correct estimate of the causes at work in the uprising cannot be formed without a backward glance into the history of the Métis as employés of the fur companies. There it will be found that they were trained systematically to kill in its inception every attempt towards settlement. One cannot read the stories of the slaughter of Governor Semple and his party, of the burning down of the houses of Lord Selkirk's settlers in old Frog Plains, now Kildonan, of the cold-blooded barbarities and privations which all settlers suffered at the hands of the fur companies and their employés, the Bois-Brulés, voyageurs, or Métis, without feeling that the same spirit would be likely to betray itself in the troubles of

1869 and '70. Nor is it easy to read the evidence given at the Lépine trial, and the various historical accounts, without feeling that the local authorities of the Honourable the Hudson's Bay Company were in the background, giving at least negative aid to the rebels. It appears certain that they were at loggerheads with the head-quarters in London. The local factors had been accustomed to receive a commission on all sales, as part payment for their services, and regarded this as a vested interest. To them the transfer meant the ruin of the fur trade, and a great decrease in their profits. They felt hurt at not being consulted in the negotiations, and considered that they were entitled to a portion of the purchase money for the lands in lieu of their commissions. This was refused, and taking the feeling of the local authorities along with the remarkable ease with which the Métis came into possession of Fort Garry, there are those who believe that the Fort was deliberately placed in their power, and that they were invited to resist the practical carrying out of the transfer. Clause 4 of the Bill of Rights, the demand that “all sheriffs, magistrates, constables, etc., etc., be elected by the people,” may point to the American influence which was lurking behind the scenes and appeared openly in the person of O'Donohue. Then there was the religious phase of the question, but enough seems to be known to show that the Rebellion did not by any means derive its full force from attempts to procure constitutional government alone. Riel certainly was not a hero, and no one has yet said he was a catspaw.

Further than this it is difficult to come to any very definite conclusions respecting him. It is now conceded that the Rebellion in the main was not unnatural—in fact that it was just—and no one deserves the credit of it more than Louis Riel. The murder of Scott cannot be forgotten, though, and Riel must assume the greatest share of responsibility for it. He must also forfeit admiration to that extent to which he was made a tool of by the Hudson's Bay Company, Fenianism, and everything else except liberty and good government.

WINNIPEG, March, 1885.

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## ECHOES OF THE INAUGURATION.

WASHINGTON.

It is now too late to make available to the columns of THE WEEK much of the information respecting the inauguration ceremonies gained through my having been exceptionally well placed to see and know all that went on, and yet I will venture to set down a summary note or two on matters intrinsically interesting, or which have been made so by current events.

More bigness ranks high among the virtues on this continent, and hence I may presume to simply place on record, in the pages of a journal meant to be indexed and permanently preserved, the facts that the ball which closed the inaugural festivities was held in a single apartment of such imperial dimensions as upwards of three hundred feet long, one hundred feet broad, and seventy feet high; that some eight thousand persons found locomotion and respiration possible in this not exactly boundless abyss; that, with true North American prodigality, this ocean-like space of wall and ceiling was as liberally surfaced with decoration as the reception room at your own Government House, for instance, might be upon a similar occasion; and that, as becomes the electric age, that subtle agent, electricity, was variously employed to light up the scene, to preserve the communications of the outlying and inlying parts, and to let the rest of mankind know what this particular part of creation was busy with at the moment.

There are two railway stations at Washington, and in these nearly one hundred and thirty thousand persons were received and subsequently despatched within the compass of a week. It is exceedingly doubtful if the administrative services of any Government in Europe or America could have rivalled the work of these railway staffs, done without the incentive of notoriety, decorations or other extraordinary reward. Not less than twenty thousand men marched in the inaugural procession and, excepting a small contingent of the standing army, these represented a voluntary expenditure of time, effort, and money, in organization, equipment and maintenance, that speak eloquently for the latent energy and spirit contained in a popular form of government, which but rarely helps itself along by means of outward shows and spectacles. But this line of moralizing has a reverse side, for, of the twenty thousand, considerably more than a tenth part stood for that locust-like army of tax-eaters that does the baser work of practical politics in a modern democracy—a mighty host of seemingly civilized men, upon whose barbaric natures literature, art and science (those factors of secular civilization) operate in vain.

The militant state of matters in Europe and its reflex action upon Canada give point to the circumstance that the single State of Pennsylvania, without disturbance to its industrial interests or oppression of its fiscal resources, has been able to recruit, organize, equip, drill and discipline a militia force of more than eight thousand men, which it mobilized at Washington on the day preceding the inauguration, so completely prepared for field service that it might have marched straight into a campaign. The Pennsylvanians were so alarmed and humiliated by the want of an efficient force to cope with the great riot at Pittsburg in 1877, that they resolved to create one for the future security of the community, and they have surpassed their own expectations.