

tions were passed condemning the conduct of the Dominion officials, calling upon the Dominion Government to order an investigation into the acts of Mr. McCabe, from the date of his appointment as Magistrate, and to furnish and publish a statement of all fines collected by him during his tenure of office, and further calling upon the Mayor to swear in such a number of special constables "to protect the rights, liberties and interests of the citizens as he might think necessary and proper." Several incendiary speeches were made on this occasion, notably one in which the people were incited to revolt if Manitoba's authority were further interfered with by the Dominion officials.

The Mayor declined to swear in special constables, knowing that the intention was to call upon them to perform illegal acts. The consequence was the formation of a society called the Protective Association, whose objects were stated to be the forcible prevention of committals to Prince Arthur's Landing jail for infractions of the Dominion liquor laws and the forcible possession of all liquor seized and held by the Police Commissioner or his constables. This Association held meetings in secret, and the fifteen or more members composing it were said to be bound together by an oath. Rightly or otherwise, some of the members were credited with having burglarized the Police Commissioner's office during his absence in Winnipeg, and with having abstracted not only all he seized liquor they could find, but also the books of record connected with his official position. Since that period, no informations have been laid under the North-West Territories' Act, the Police Commissioner having, as he said, received instructions from the Minister of Justice to cease acting—as he had hitherto done—under the Prohibitory Act, on the line of railway or adjacent thereto, and to confine his operations wholly to the Public Works Act, which may remain in force until July, 1883, or later, if the road be not then handed over to the Syndicate. Meantime, the Manitoba Government discovered that it had no power to issue a liquor license in the disputed territory.

The Dominion Commissioner has left his post, and the only magistrates now acting under the Manitoba claim of jurisdiction are the Mayor and the Manitoba acting Stipendiary, who, as before stated, is an engineer in the employ of the railway contractors. The illicit whiskey traffic is increasing in volume; no attempt has been made for some weeks to convict any of the offenders; lumbermen, railway labourers and Indians are to be seen rolling about the streets even in the daytime, and the nights are made hideous by the demoniacal screeching and yelling of drunken savages.

On the night preceding the departure of the Dominion Police Commissioner, a demonstration was got up in front of the so-called "licensed" hotel, another bonfire was lighted, and the Commissioner and two of the railway contractors burnt in effigy. The object of this orgie was, mainly, to express satisfaction at the non-conviction of a man who had been on trial before Magistrate Brereton for stealing the seized liquor from Commissioner McCabe's office. It is satisfactory to be able to report that respectable people held aloof, and condemned this exhibition of sympathy with successful crime—the outcome, it was believed, of the society called the Protective Association. There can be no question that a considerable section of the population, however, is largely demoralized by the whiskey traffic, and that many are ready to resort to acts of violence to secure a perpetuation of their alleged "privileges."

In a former part of this report I have pointed out how the provisions of the