

In another Act, assented to on 25th May, 1881, the Eastern Judicial District of Manitoba was made to comprise—

"All the remaining portion of the Province not comprised in the Western and Central Districts," the Counties composing which were named.

When it became known that Ontario assumed to have civil jurisdiction, and had given notice of holding a Division Court at Rat Portage, the newspaper conducted in the interest of the Dominion and Manitoba Governments at Winnipeg fiercely assailed the Government of Ontario, and demanded the withdrawal of Ontario from the Rat Portage and Fort Frances districts; and a small sheet published at Rat Portage went so far as to counsel resistance to a jurisdiction which all the leading men of the village and neighbourhood had so recently invoked. But the feeling of hostility was by no means widespread; and after the sitting of the Court, which passed off in an orderly manner, it became evident that no serious intention existed to question Ontario's right.

Among the cases disposed of at the sitting were two garnishee claims against the firm of Manning, McDonald, McLaren & Co., Railway Contractors. Towards the end of May, it was openly stated that this firm would have the Ontario bailiff arrested if he attempted to seize their goods under process of Court. On the 13th June, a barrister from Winnipeg named Kennedy, employed by the contractors, appeared at Rat Portage and announced to the Ontario Stipendiary that the bailiff would be obstructed should he attempt to make execution. In pursuance of his threat, Kennedy subsequently laid hands upon the officer in the contractor's store, and prevented his proceeding. Thereupon the bailiff arrested Kennedy, but the latter declined accompanying him unless he procured a warrant. Before that document could be prepared the bailiff was himself arrested by a Dominion constable for assault, and summarily placed in the lock-up, without being brought before the Dominion Police Commissioner. He was subsequently fined by the latter one dollar, or one day's imprisonment, while Kennedy was fined ten dollars and costs by the Ontario Stipendiary, for obstructing the bailiff in the execution of his office. A subsequent attempt of the bailiff to seize was similarly and successfully resisted, he being unaccompanied by the requisite force. Kennedy announced his intention of testing the question of jurisdiction in the Manitoba Courts; but as nothing was done in this direction, then or subsequently, he was probably advised to let the case drop, pending action by the Manitoba Government. It was no secret at this time that had the Ontario Magistrate a strong force at his back the contractors were prepared to organize a still stronger, and that a collision would have been inevitable.

On the 1st of July a proclamation was issued, adding to the Province of Manitoba the territory described in the Extension Act passed by the Dominion Parliament. The officials of the Dominion Government received (as they stated) instructions to confer with the Attorney-General of Manitoba in all matters regarding the administration of justice within the territory, from the date of the proclamation; but no forward movement was made by that officer or his Government within the territory until the end of September, when notice was given that a County Court for the trial of Civil causes would be held at Rat Portage in the following month under Manitoba jurisdiction. A Clerk was appointed and gazetted, and writs were issued by the Court of Queen's Bench at Winnipeg, directed against parties within the disputed territory. Meantime, no suits