

despatched a party of Frenchmen to intercept them, which was effected without a shot being fired. The number of prisoners so taken was 47. They were nominally under the command of Captain Boulton, late of the 100th Regiment. A Canadian gentleman wintering in the settlement who had connected himself with Colonel Dennis' operations last Autumn.

"Four of the prisoners were condemned by Court Martial to be executed, but in consequence of earnest representations Riel pardoned three of them, refusing however to interfere in favor of Captain Boulton. Late on the evening of the 19th, a few hours before the time fixed for the execution, Riel consented to respite Boulton on the condition that Mr. Smith, the Canadian Commissioner, should make a tour through the Settlement, and induce the inhabitants of the disaffected parishes to support the action of their representatives and acknowledge the Provisional Government.

"Mr. Smith, accompanied by Archdeacon McLean, visited the various districts referred to, and finally the number of English delegates required to complete the "Legislative Council" were elected and returned.

"I regret to say that during the time occupied by the proceedings of the assemblage at Frog Plain, a young Scotchman, named John Hugh Sutherland was shot by a Frenchman who had been taken prisoner. Sutherland was in no way connected the movement, the person who shot him did so in the course of a futile effort to regain his liberty.

"I also regret to state that a prisoner, named Scott, was shot by order of a French Court Martial on 4th March. His offence was, I believe, insubordination.

"Dr. Schultz with some difficulty made good his escape, and has recently been heard of as having reached Superior City *via* Fort Francis and Vermillion Lake. He was escorted by Joseph Monkman who it is said holds a Commission from Mr. McDougall to visit the Indians in that quarter, with what object I have been unable to ascertain.

"Appended to the Commission, Monkman also carried a general order addressed to the Company's officers, directing the latter to supply him with supplies, for the re-payment of which the Canadian Government would be responsible. This order Monkman showed to Chief Trader Taylor, who, having received no advice thereof from the Company's Officials, declined to comply with it. The Commission which was attached to the order Monkman refused to show, asserting that it was private.

"The first meeting of the Legislative Assembly took place on 9th March. Bishop Taché arrived on the 10th, and was present at the second meeting of the Assembly on the 15th. He begged that the prisoners should all be liberated. Half their number were at once set free and the remainder on the 20th March, the reason alleged for their protracted detention being that the popular excitement in the settlement had not yet quieted down.

"Judge Black, the Rev. Mr. Richot, and Mr. Alfred H. Scott, who had been appointed delegates from the people here, left the settlement for Ottawa on or about the 24th March.

"Mr. Black had acted as delegate from one of the parishes in the settlement at the Convention which sat to frame the Bill of Rights, and form a temporary Government, which would be acceptable to all sections of the Colony. This Mr. Black did most reluctantly and only on account of representations that his presence might be of essential service. The Convention elected Mr. Black as its Chairman. When requested to go to Ottawa as a delegate he refused for a long time, and was with much difficulty ultimately prevailed on to go by Bishop Taché. He left on 24th ultimo with his sister. Captain Boulton returned along with him to Canada.

"Chief Factor Smith, accompanied by Chief Trader Hardesty, left this place for Canada on 19th ultimo, and Mr. de Salaberry followed on the 23rd. The Rev. Mr. Thibeault will remain to reside in the settlement.

"With regard to the present situation, as respects the Company's operations in a commercial point of view, I beg to enclose copy of propositions made to me by Riel, by conceding which the Company would be permitted to resume business. The conditions bear very heavily upon us, but compliance was inevitable.