

position of things here, and suggesting a Proclamation from your Government, explaining the nature of the change in the Government, and warning the malcontents of the consequences of their acts. I was disappointed to hear from those who met me that they had not been informed by any one in authority that the change of Government was an Imperial act, and had the sanction of the Queen. I also reminded you and your Council, that until the actual Transfer and Proclamation, you are the legal Rulers, and responsible for the preservation of the public peace. I am surprised to learn, from a communication brought by the bearer of this, that a few rebels have been allowed to take your Fort, unopposed, even by public protest. Of course, I am not in the best position to judge or advise in such a crisis; but in the hope that, by *some* means, the people will find out what it is they are doing, and will shrink from the consequences of war and bloodshed, and confiscation, which are sure to follow. I shall remain here until I hear officially of the transfer of authority, and shall then be guided by circumstances as to what I shall say and do.

Hoping to hear full details of what has occurred, and what you advise to be done there as well as here.

I remain,
Very respectfully yours,
WM. McDOUGALL.

PEMBINA VILLAGE, U.S.,
11th November, 1869.

The Honorable the Minister of Customs, Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that I reached Pembina on the 30th ult., *en route* for Fort Garry, in company with Governor McDougall and party.

You are, doubtless, aware of the circumstances which prevented us from proceeding onward; and how we were driven from the Hudson's Bay Company's Post, back again across the boundary line into the United States, by an armed party of twenty half-breeds.

The Governor will remain here for some time yet, to await results. Of course, I have no alternative but remain with him, and will be guided by his movements and advice.

Expenses have been so far very heavy. Everything at war prices. By the time I can hear from your Department in answer to this, my funds will be exhausted. Please send remittances to be accounted for.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
ALEXANDER BEGG,
Collector.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE PROVINCES,
Ottawa, November 29th, 1869.

The Hon. William McDougall, C.B., Pembina.

Received by Mr. McDougall, 16th December. SIR,—I had the honor to receive on Friday, your despatches of the 5th and 7th November, the former dated from Pembina, and the latter from Larose's Farm. Eight enclosures, including your correspondence with Governor McTavish, and the reports made to you by Colonel Dennis and Mr. Provencher, also came safe to hand.

These papers were at once laid before His Excellency the Governor General and Council, and were anxiously considered by the Privy Council. The crisis was grave as it was unexpected, and might, if dealt with rashly and unwisely, lead to a civil if not a national war, the end of which no man could foresee.