

of democrats (he probably meant demagogues) could preach for hours; and poor indeed must have been their clap-trap eloquence, if an ignorant and impressionable people such as those at Red River had not been aroused by it."

They were aroused. They organized themselves for resistance to the assumption of authority by the Canadian government, till proper terms had been made with them. The French element, organized under Louis Riel, elected twelve delegates, and invited the English natives to elect other twelve. The invitation was responded to. The twenty-four delegates met on Nov. 16, 1869, and adjourned because of their inability to agree as to the proposal to constitute a provisional government. On December 1 they re-assembled, and formulated the first Bill of Rights, which is as follows:

LIST OF RIGHTS.

1. That the people have the right to elect their own legislature.
2. That the legislature have power to pass all laws local to the territory over the veto of the executive by a two-thirds vote.
3. That no act of the Dominion parliament (local to the territory) be binding on the people until sanctioned by the legislature of the territory.
4. That all sheriffs, magistrates, constables, school commissioners, etc., etc., be elected by the people.
5. A free homestead and pre-emption land law.
6. That a portion of the public lands be appropriated to the benefit of schools, the building of bridges, roads and public buildings.
7. That it be guaranteed to connect Winnipeg by rail with the nearest line of railroad within a term of five years; the land grant to be subject to the local legislature.
8. That for a term of four years, all military, civil, and municipal expenses be paid out of the Dominion funds.
9. That the military be composed of the inhabitants now existing in the territory.
10. That the English and French languages be common in the legislature and courts; and all public documents and acts of legislature be published in both languages.
11. That the judge of the Supreme court speak the English and French languages.
12. That the treaties be concluded and ratified between the Dominion

government and the several tribes of Indians in the territory, to ensure peace on the frontier.

13. That we have a fair and full representation in the Canadian parliament.

14. That all privileges, customs and usages existing at the time of transfer be respected.

This is the first of the three Bills or Lists of Rights which were admittedly adopted by the legislative or executive representatives of the inhabitants. It will be seen that there is no reference in the above list to education or schools. A fourth bill, of somewhat mysterious origin, and of hazy identity, plays a most important part in this question, and it would be desirable that the reader, in order to obtain a clear understanding of the historico-legal phase of this dispute, should closely follow the facts relating to these Bills of Rights. The Bill of Rights quoted above was adopted by the council "without a dissenting voice."

Meanwhile the Hon. Wm. McDougall, who had been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the Territory, had been at Pembina on the boundary since October 30, preparing to make his formal entry as soon as the transfer should be consummated. The proceedings of the inhabitants had rendered this impossible.

HISTORY OF BILLS OF RIGHTS.

Three commissioners were then sent by the Canadian government to endeavor to pacify the inhabitants, and effect a settlement. These were Very Rev. Grand Vicar Thibault, Colonel De Salabery and Sir (then Mr.) Donald A. Smith. These commissioners met the settlers in mass meeting on January 19, 1870. The meeting, a very large one, was held in the open air, and so intense was the interest that, although the thermometer registered 20 degrees below zero, it lasted over five hours. Mr. Smith's commission was read and explained. The election of a council of forty was decided upon "with the object of considering Mr. Smith's commission, and to decide what would be best for the welfare of the country." Pursuant to this decision, the forty representatives were elected, twenty by the French, and twenty by the English settlers. They assembled on January 26 and elected Judge Black chairman. Sir Donald Smith, who seems to have taken the most prominent part in all these