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THE TRADE REVIEW
 AND
Intercolonial Journal of Commerce.
 MONTREAL, FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1870

THE SITUATION.
 THE plain facts of the present situation of Canada are pretty well known to every newspaper reader. She was about to take possession of Red River Territory, of which she expected an immediate transfer from the Imperial Government, when an armed resistance was organized against any assumption of jurisdiction by her. To a certain extent Riel might have been right, had he represented the whole people of the territory, and not merely a minority; but he has now placed himself altogether in the wrong, and, as far as he and his party are concerned, nothing can be said in their favour. But Canada has never been given possession of the country, and our Government are strongly opposed to the idea of paying out a large sum of money, and then having to fight or diplomate for the possession of that which should peaceably come into their hands. It was for the Imperial Government and the Hudson's Bay Co. to see that the preliminaries of a transfer were completed; that, if necessary, the people were properly consulted as to their wishes in the matter, that they were allowed to show, by a popular vote, (not having a representative government,) whether they were willing to be simply made over to Canada, or whether they required certain rights reserved to them, and what these rights might be. It was, beyond a doubt, the duty of those in possession to see that these things were done, and, had they been performed, there would have been not only no trouble, but it would have been shown that the anti-Canadian party were in a minority, and that the policy which was to make

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the Territory a part of the Dominion, was, in reality, the wish of a majority of the people. We are, therefore, as we have already previously stated, convinced that Canada has nothing to do with suppressing, by force, the insurrection in the North-West. Moreover, we are also convinced that it would be exceedingly unpolitic for our Government to move in the matter other than by endeavoring to dissipate, in some way, the false impression disseminated concerning their intentions and to show that they intended to govern the Territory for the benefit of its people, and for no other purpose. To take part in the subjugation, by force of arms, of the Riel party would be to sow the seeds of future hatred, and a permanent opposition to all plans for ruling the country and maintaining law and order. It would be for Canadians to go into the territory, in the character of conquerors and tyrants, and not as fellow-citizens, as it would be well they should. We would not, of course, advise that our Government should draw back now, if they have made any offers to supplement a British force to put down the rising. In such case, it is only left for us to express our regrets, and to watch the course of events.

Besides this Red River difficulty, we have the possibility of a Fenian raid, and supported by statements of movements of arms and ammunition to points near the frontier, so as to leave Government no alternative but to have the Volunteers and Militia called out, some of them for duty on the frontier, and the rest to hold themselves in readiness to move at a minute's warning. We ourselves are still of the opinion that no movement of any general or really dangerous character is contemplated by the Fenian authorities, and that any intention that they may have looking to an occupation of our soil, will be given up now that they find us prepared to receive them. The leaders of the deluded patriots (?) may have been able to persuade their followers that Canada's danger (that is, her having to suppress the Red River rebellion) would be the Brotherhood's opportunity, and they may be making ready to take advantage of anything that might turn up. But as, at most, Canada will only send a few hundred volunteers to the west, the country will in no measure be left to the mercy of the marauders, and we need, we think, entertain no fears of real danger. The local troops on the frontier and the reserves elsewhere will be found well able to take care of any plunderers who may desire to make the acquaintance of Canadian lead and steel.
 Business men may therefore go on with their business just as usual. Their calculations will not be thrown much out by either of the difficulties to which we have alluded. Any temporary interruption of trade will not be of much consequence, and will have little effect on the total of the year's operations.