

CANADA.

explain to him and them the serious character of the offence of which they had been guilty, and endeavour quietly to obtain a promise that no further opposition should be made to continuing the Survey.

The Magistrates had done so accordingly, but had failed either to extract from him any rational excuse for their proceeding (beyond the assertion that the Canadian Government had no right to make Surveys in the Territory without the express permission of the people in the Settlement) or any promise that their opposition would be withdrawn.

Dr. Cowan stated further that Riel was to be back at 2 o'clock, when he, the Doctor, if Riel still refused to listen to reason, would bring in the influence of Governor McTavish, whose health being in a critical condition, he had desired should not be troubled, if it could be avoided.

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Wednesday, October 13th.

Dr. Cowan informed me this morning that the interview of himself and Governor McTavish with Riel in the interview which had taken place yesterday had been in no respect satisfactory; that Riel still persisted that injustice was being done by the Canadian Government, and utterly refused to withdraw from the position he and those under him had taken.

Dr. Cowan said he should now apply to the Father Superior Lestanc, in charge of the diocese during the absence of Bishop Taché, and that he felt sanguine that the Reverend Father—if so disposed—could put a stop to the trouble at once.

It being important that I should no longer delay visiting another of my parties under the charge of Mr. Hart, engaged in projecting the meridian up near Shoal Lake, on which service, had this trouble not occurred, I should have left on the afternoon of the 11th instant, I determined to leave to-day, desiring Dr. Cowan, after consulting with Father Lestanc, to send a note to my office stating the result, and, instructing Mr. Webb accordingly, I started on the service above-mentioned.

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October 14th to 20th, both inclusive.

Absent at Shoal Lake, and examining country between that lake and Lake Manitoba.

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October 21st.

Having returned to the Settlement late last night, I found Dr. Cowan's efforts with Father Lestanc had been without avail, the Reverend Father declining to attempt to use any influence with the party of half-breeds in question.

Dr. Cowan informed me that the Reverend Father, in explanation of his refusal, said that any such attempt, in consequence of an idea which possessed the half-breeds that the Company was in collusion with the Canadian Government, would have a tendency to impress them with the idea that the Church also was in sympathy with the Government, and so might lead to weakening their influence over their people in a religious point of view.

Dr. Cowan had written a note (see same, dated 15th October), announcing the entire failure of his endeavours to get over the opposition of the French Settlers to the Survey, in consequence of which Mr. Webb, according to my instructions in such event, had withdrawn his party to the north side of the Assiniboine, and was proceeding with the surveying of the Settlement north of Fort Garry, to which no opposition was offered.

Such is the present condition of affairs.

Same day, 4 o'clock, p.m.

The High Constable, Mullinan, has just come in to inform me, as a matter of duty, that a meeting took place yesterday at the house of a French half-breed named Bruce, on the other side of the river, by a number of the disaffected French party, among whom the man Riel was conspicuous.

That at such meeting it was resolved to send an armed party to meet the Governor, whom they expected to come in to-morrow, and to prevent, at all hazards, his entering the Settlement.

Under these circumstances, not wishing to identify myself with any one of the three parties into which the people in the village are evidently divided, and who have no sympathy with each other, either socially or politically, I called in the counsel of two Canadian gentlemen, Messrs. Sanford and Turner of Hamilton, who had accompanied Mr. Howe on his visit, and remaining behind that gentleman, were still in the Settlement.

He considered that the circumstances called for immediate and vigorous action on the part of the authorities, and it was arranged that Mr. Turner and I should wait upon Judge Black, and inform him of the intended outrage.

We found Judge Black at his residence some four miles down the Settlement, and laid the matter before him, and it was arranged that he should wait upon the Governor and Dr. Cowan early to-morrow morning to concert measures to defeat the object of the refractory half-breeds.

On our return there were reports confirmatory of the statements we had heard.

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Friday, October 22nd.

I met Judge Black, Governor McTavish, and Dr. Cowan this morning at the Fort by appointment, when the matter was fully discussed in all its bearings; and, in view of the serious aspect of affairs, the Governor thought it only proper that a meeting of the Council of the Colony should be convened with the least possible delay, and upon their advice and action such further steps should be promptly taken as should effectually prevent the perpetration of the gross outrage intended.