

Fort Garry. A meeting of the Council was at once called, and the wildest excitement followed. The leader of the Insurgents "Riel" was before the Council from 10 A.M. until 7 P.M., and concluded by convincing them that he was correct, and they wrong. We proposed leaving the Friday following your departure, but were detained, by order of Governor McTavish, four days, to hear the decision of the Council, that he might send by me verbal advice to Governor McDougall. The Council finding itself powerless, broke up, without taking any action, while the Insurgents were gathering fresh material hourly. Governor McTavish was unable to attend the Council, and is failing rapidly. Shall not be surprised to hear of his death by any mail. When leaving Stinking River, we found an encampment of the rebels, thirty strong. They had barricaded the roads, and were patrolling on both sides of the barricade, all armed with rifles. They seized our horses by the heads, and we had to dismount. It was very generally known they had a force out to intercept the Government supplies for Dennis and Snow, also the rifles being brought forward by McDougall. I, however, sent messengers to him, and learned when I met him, the rifles had been carefully stowed below, so they are safe.

Mr. McDougall not having been in the settlement, can only have a general idea of the true position, and I felt affairs were assuming so serious an aspect, that I thought I would at once hurry down to Ottawa, and enter fully into detail, but afterwards thought it better to telegraph, and if you thought it necessary, you would telegraph for more particulars. On my arrival in St. Paul, and when passing through St. Cloud, and other of those villages, I found a great many rough men collecting and preparing for the Prairies, just the class who would only be too ready to filibuster, and knowing that in a week they would be out of the way, I put into the paper the account of Mr. McDougall's safe arrival at Fort Garry you saw telegraphed from St. Paul's, which, I have to confess, had not one word of truth in it. Things are not healthy, and I am afraid it will cost money and blood yet.

If there is anything more you may wish to know, write to me, or if you think it necessary, I will run down.

I am, &c.,

W. E. SANFORD.

OTTAWA, 19th November, 1869.

See Letter
to Honorable
McDougall,
November 19
1869.

MY DEAR WHEELOCK,—Send this by a safe hand as quickly as you can, so that it may not be stopped or tampered with by the way.

Yours truly,

JOSEPH HOWE.

Say nothing of this, the expense will be paid.

Telegraph

November 20th, 1869.

Mr. W. E. Sanford, Hamilton.

Letter received. Thanks. Telegraph any new facts. Need not come here.

JOSEPH HOWE.