

The first interview was merely preliminary. On Monday the 25th, the two ministers and the three delegates met again; the delegates insisted on a written acknowledgment of their official position and declared that the list or bill of rights they had brought with them was the only basis on which they were authorized to treat with the government. Objections were made, but after a long discussion, it was agreed that the written acknowledgment would be given next day, and the list be produced by the delegates.

On the 26th, at the next meeting the promised letter was given by the ministers and the list of rights produced by the delegates and practically the official negotiations began this day and lasted until the 3rd of May, when the principal points on the list of rights were agreed upon, leaving some details for further consideration.

It is not generally known that the new bill of rights was the basis of negotiations, but it is nevertheless the case, and many points granted as expressed in the Manitoba act were demanded in no other document, except on the list of rights presented by the delegates.

The first article is a very important feature of this new bill of rights. It contains the demand for the establishment of a province covering the whole Northwest, with all the privileges and governing machinery appertaining to other provinces, including a responsible government. This met with strong objections, but at last was conceded on the condition of reducing the new province to very small proportions.

Article 11 also caused a long discussion; it asked for the control of all the lands of the Northwest by the Local Legislature. To this, both the Imperial and Canadian authorities refused to accede, but to condone for this refusal they gave to the children of the half-breed inhabitants of the country one million four hundred thousand acres of land, which had not been asked for, and with the understanding that by and by they would also give some lands to the parents of these children and to other old settlers.

The question of separate schools, as demanded in the Seventh Article of the List of Rights, was taken into consideration; the delegates were promised that they would not only have the benefit of the provisions of the "British North American Act," but they might rest assured and might assure the people of the Red River that separate schools would be guaranteed to them.

The recognition of the use the French language, as an official language, was

conceded as expressed in the 16th article of the List of Rights, with the promise that attention would be paid to the demands of the 17th and 18th articles, as in fact it has been done, if not completely at least enough to satisfy the interested parties.

The whole list having been examined, accepted, modified or rejected to the satisfaction of the negotiating parties, the Governor-General telegraphed to Earl Granville on the 3rd of May: "Negotiations with the delegates closed satisfactorily."

The negotiations had been asked for, they had been urged both by the Imperial and Federal authorities, the Government of Her Majesty had exacted from the Canadian Government the acceptance by the latter of the decision of the former on all points of the Bill of Rights. They had sent an official envoy to Ottawa to watch the conference, and when it is announced that the negotiations are closed satisfactorily it must mean that the Imperial Government is satisfied, that its views on this subject will be carried out, and that no inferior authority would have power to disturb them.

Lord Granville, in one of his despatches, says: "I am glad to learn that the proceedings adopted against the Rev. Mr. Ritchot and Mr. Scott were promptly disposed of, and had not been renewed; and I take this opportunity of expressing the satisfaction with which I have learned from your telegram of the 3rd inst., that the Canadian Government and the delegates have come to an understanding as to the terms on which the settlement of the Red River should be admitted into the Dominion."

All this is previous to the Manitoba act, it is a treaty between contracting parties placed on a certain footing of equality, as the government of Her Majesty had declared "troops should not be employed in forcing the sovereignty of Canada on the population of the Red River, should they refuse to admit it."

Public good faith and inter-provincial laws, even apart of the Manitoba act, must guarantee to the parties interested their privileges and rights settled by the above-mentioned negotiations.

Before consummation of the union, it remained for the Cabinet of Ottawa to see if the Legislature of the Dominion would acquiesce in their share of obligation, as expressed during the negotiations, or if they would rather renounce to the acquisition of the Northwest; a bill was prepared to that effect, introduced to the House of Commons by Sir John A. Macdonald, was discussed during several