

April 12, 1871

seven men and with them to guard certain Government stores in the storehouse of Dr. Schultz, and that said was issued in consequence of an urgent appeal for protection from Jon. A. Snow, the Agent of the Canadian Government at that time, that he did procure the said seven men and place them to guard the building, that he remained till the seventh day of December, when the buildings were surrounded by an armed force under Riel, and orders having come from Col. Dennis to surrender he was included, in the general capture, and remained for ten weeks in prison. Said Mulligan further states that after ten weeks imprisonment he went and saw Dr. Cowan, and asked to see Governor MacTavish, that he wished the pay of the men that he had employed to defend the Government stores. Said MacTavish raised all possible objections and said, 'to tell the truth Mulligan, Riel has deceived me, he promised that he would respect my guard, and he also promised me that he would remain only three days.' Mulligan then said 'you seem to have made a close bargain with Riel,' which Governor MacTavish did not deny, and admitted in general terms that he had made a mistake in not calling upon the loyal people. Said Mulligan further says that a few days after the taking of Fort Garry by the rebels, he called upon Dr. Cowan and asked how these rebels were being fed and whether they had broken into any of the stores. Said Cowan said that they had not, but that he had given them access to the stores. Said James Mulligan finally says that he has been Chief of Police in the town of Winnipeg for four years, and that he acted in that capacity during the whole of the rebellion until his own imprisonment on the 7th of December, 1869. That he repeatedly warned Doctor Cowan and other of his superior officers of the rising and of the intention of the rebels to overthrow the Government and take Fort Garry, but that on all occasions he was rebuffed and all his offers of services on behalf of himself and in the name of the loyal people who were willing to support the police authority and anxious to keep down the rebellion were distinctly refused, and that the said James Mulligan fully believes that the Hudson Bay Company authorities could at any time have stopped the said rebellion, but that they encouraged it for their own purposes and verily believes Riel and his men to have been invited to take possession of Fort Garry."

The next statement is one also upon oath made by a very respectable resident of the Parish of Kildonan, who states:

"That during the fall of 1869 he was working in the vicinity of Fort Garry, and slept occasionally at the house of his sister in said Fort. That on one occasion, just before the gathering of rebels at Stinking River to resist the entrance of the Hon. William McDougall into the Territory, in going out in the dusk of the evening he saw Louis Riel and Chief Factor Dr. Cowan enter Fort Garry by the South Gate, and not wishing to be seen, he, the said John Flett, did enter the porch leading to the Hudson Bay Company's store. That while in said porch the said Riel and said Cowan advanced and stopped about five yards from where he was. That he did distinctly hear this conversation which took place between the said Cowan and Riel. That it appeared from the remarks he heard as the said Cowan and Riel approached that said Cowan urged said Riel to go on with the proposed stopping of the hon. Wm. McDougall at Stinking River. That said Riel replied,

'What good will it do me? What will I get for it?' Said Cowan answered that Governor MacTavish would do as he had promised, and said Cowan also assured him, the said Riel, that he would get what he had been promised. That said Cowan and said Riel then walked in the direction of said Cowan's residence. That further, he verily believes from the whole conversation that said Cowan, who was then in charge of Fort Garry, was inciting and encouraging the said Riel by promises of payment to take active steps for the keeping out of the said Governor McDougall which said Riel seemed to hesitate about doing. That also, he did on several occasions see the said Cowan and Riel in close conversation, but could not hear what was said."

Another and the last which I shall call the attention of this Honourable House to, is that a Gentleman who occupied an official position under the Hudson's Bay Company for some years and may be supposed to have had considerable insight into the real state of affairs, states:

"That about four years ago he was commissioned by the Hon. Hudson Bay Company in England a member of the Council of Assiniboia and that he has been a Petit Magistrate and Collector of Customs for about ten years. That about one week before the erection of barricades at Stinking River, and when the rebels were then collecting at that place, he was summoned to attend a meeting of the said Council of Assiniboia to consider the state of affairs. That at said Council he warned the other members of the gathering near his place on the Stinking River, but that the President, Judge Black, then acting Governor, did not suggest or advise any active measures to prevent the evil. That he then urged upon the Council the necessity, and offered to raise among the loyal portion of his own people, the French half-breeds, enough men to put the gathering down. That on pressing the matter he was allowed to see what he could do in getting the names of persons to act in such a service and to report. That he afterwards procured the names of ninety-six able-bodied men willing to act, and that the fact was duly reported, but that Governor MacTavish directed him to disband and pay off the force which he had gathered at the north side of the barricade to the number of fifty-six without giving him any reason for doing so. That he requested and waited a day and a half on a written order, but that such order was distinctly refused. That there were on being estimated about sixty-six of the party under Riel and Bruce at the said barricade at Stinking River. That he asked Governor MacTavish for additional permission to call on the English people, but that request was refused. That afterwards, and a short time before Fort Garry was taken possession of by said rebels, he informed Dr. Cowan the master of said fort, of their intention of doing so, but that he did not advise or take any steps to prevent their doing so, and that in his presence a prominent French half-breed informed Governor MacTavish of the intention of the rebels to take possession of the Hudson Bay Company's safe and of the Fort. That to the best of his knowledge and belief the officers of the Hudson Bay Company at Fort Garry did not wish to stop the action of the insurgents at Stinking River, and that had he been given authority to do so it could have been accomplished with the aid of the French half-breeds alone. That the said officers discouraged and frowned down every suggestion of a means of doing so and refused all offers