

Should this Company act upon that suggestion, the almost certain result would be that the Indian population will be deprived of the means of obtaining food, and the rest of the population either left in the same predicament, or at all events subjected to great loss, privation and inconvenience in procuring the means of subsistence, either from Canada or the United States.

The period is now fast approaching when the Company's supplies should be sent out, and as the question is one of a public nature, the Committee beg to enquire whether Her Majesty's Government, will give an engagement to this Company to indemnify them against any loss or damage they may sustain from their stores upon their arrival at the Company's posts or stations, being interfered with by the agents of the Provisional Government, or by any of the disaffected population. As it is necessary that the Committee should come to a decision on the subject without delay, the Committee will be glad to receive a communication from Her Majesty's Government at their earliest convenience.

I should mention that the value of the supplies usually sent out at this period of the year, is about £80,000.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

C. M. LAMPSON,
Deputy Chairman.

Sir F. Rogers, Bart., Colonial Office.

Extract of a letter from Governor McTavish to W. G. Smith, Secretary of the Hudson's Bay Company, dated Fort Garry, Red River, 6th of April, 1870.

"I beg to forward for your information the following general outline of events which have occurred here since I last addressed you on the 12th of February.

"I then mentioned, that on the evening of the 10th February, a Provisional Government had been formed, of which Mr. Louis Riel was acknowledged President by the Congress of Representatives from the various parts of the Settlement.

"On the forenoon of the 14th of February, it became known at Fort Garry, that a party of Canadians and others from Portage La Prairie had arrived at Headingly, on their way to this place, with the avowed object of liberating the prisoners and overthrowing the French party,

"Simultaneously with this movement a general rising took place in the lower part of the Settlement, in the Parishes of St. Andrew's and St. Clement's, from which a multitude of several hundred men came to Frog Plain, when they were joined by the party of more than one hundred men from the Portage.

"Headingly is about 12 miles from Fort Garry, situated on the Assiniboine; Frog Plain is about five miles from Fort Garry, situated on the Red River. In order to form a junction with the party from the lower settlements, that from the portage passed within sight of this Fort on the night of the 14th. The moon was bright, and they were expected by the French, who manned the bastions and walls and fired several shots, apparently as a salute. The Portage party in passing through the village of Winnipeg, surrounded and searched a house in which Riel sometimes slept, though without finding him.

"The party from the Lower Settlement were led by Dr. Schultz, and on their arrival at Frog Plain they billeted themselves in the Scotch Church at that place. They sent a messenger to Fort Garry demanding the liberation of the prisoners which had been promised by Riel on the formation of the Provisional Government, but had been only partially fulfilled. The French party had collected to the number of about 700 men and were prepared to defend the Fort. On the evening of the 15th the last of the prisoners were set at liberty.

"After remaining in a disorderly crowd at Frog Plain, debating the best course for them to pursue, the greater number of the English party separated for their various homes on the evening of the 16th February.

"On the morning of the 17th a number of men belonging to the portage party passed Fort Garry on their way home from Frog Plain to Portage La Prairie. Riel immediately