

I have further to report that Captain Cameron of the Royal Artillery, who accompanied me in his own conveyance for the greater part of the way from St. Cloud, and who expects to hold an appointment under the Government, determined this morning to proceed to Fort Garry on his own responsibility. I endeavoured to dissuade him from making the attempt until we had some assurance that the road would not be obstructed, but he persisted in making preparations for the journey, whereupon I addressed him the following Note, (marked G).

After reading my Note he said he would take all risks, and proceeded on his journey, taking with him his wife and two servants.

I have just heard that I am to have a visit to-morrow from the Chief of a band of Chippewa Indians, who claim title to a large tract of country, extending from the boundary line at Pembina towards Fort Garry. I have agreed to *talk* with him, and will report the result of my interview in due course.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

WILLIAM McDOUGALL.

The Honourable the Secretary of State
for the Provinces, Ottawa.

November 1st, 1869.

POSTSCRIPT.—Colonel Dennis and Mr. William Hallett have just arrived from Fort Garry, having made a detour over the Prairie, in order to avoid the armed party at Scratching River. The situation is but little changed, except that the attempt of the Insurgents to rally the Indians to their side has failed. Two Chiefs who obeyed their summons returned home, refusing to take part in the movement when they had ascertained its nature.

I have just had a long talk with the Chief of the tribe who claim the country in this neighbourhood. They repudiate all sympathy with the half-breeds who are in arms.

In haste,

(Signed)

WILLIAM McDOUGALL.

(A.)

MEMORANDUM of FACTS and CIRCUMSTANCES connected with the active Opposition by the FRENCH HALF-BREEDS in this Settlement to the prosecution of the GOVERNMENT SURVEYS.

Fort Garry, October 11th, 1869.

This day about 2 P.M. a messenger arrived, Mr. Farmer, Chairman of Mr. Webb's party, employed in surveying the base line, or parallel of latitude, between townships 6 & 7 east of the meridian, on which service the party left a week ago to-day, bringing the unwelcome information from Mr. Webb that his further progress with the Survey had been stopped by a band * of some eighteen French half-breeds, headed by a man named Louis Riel.

Mr. Webb had projected the line to about the Fourth Section in Township 7, Second Range East, and being within, say, two and a half miles of the Red River, when this occurrence took place.

He was ordered by the leader of the party at once to desist from further running the line, and in fact notified that he must leave the country on the south side of the Assiniboine, which country the party claimed as the property of the French half-breeds, and which they would not allow to be surveyed by the Canadian Government.

No arms were seen with the party, but by standing on the chain and using threats of violence if the Survey was persisted in, it became evident that to go on with the Survey would probably have led to a collision, and Mr. Webb, in accordance with written instructions which I had previously given him, to provide for any such contingency, discontinued his work, and as the half-breeds would not allow him to remain encamped where he was, moved his camp out to the main road on the Red River, waiting for orders, having sent off in the mean time Mr. Farmer, as above stated.

I at once waited on Dr. Cowan, the Chief Magistrate in the Settlement, and laying the facts of the case before him, requested that he would consult with the Governor, or such other Magistrate as he might think desirable to call in, and take such further steps with regard to this outrage as he and they might think called for under the circumstances.

I remarked to Dr. Cowan, at the same time, that I questioned whether, owing to the unsettled relation of the land tenure as regarded the half-breeds and Indians, and the peculiar irritation or sensitiveness that existed on the part of the French half-breeds in view of the transfer of the Territory and the assumption of the Government by Canada, it would be politic to take harsh measures towards the offenders in this case; but stated that, as he and his brother Magistrate knew the temper and feelings of the people in the Settlement generally, I left the matter in their hands, satisfied that they would do what would seem most advisable under the circumstances.

Before I left Dr. Cowan it was settled that he would call in another Magistrate, Mr. Goulet, and consult with him as to what course to take.

Tuesday, 12th October.

I waited on Dr. Cowan this morning about 11 o'clock, and was informed that he and Mr. Goulet had thought it best to send for Riel the *leader*, and ascertain what the party meant by this proceeding, and

* Names of Band:—Louis Riel, leader, De Saugré and Son, Baptiste Nona, Baptiste Treuan and three Sons, François Charest, Bideau Non, Edward Morin, Mannin Non, Janvive Richot, Benjamin Non; three others, names not known.