

"show a desire to have money; he spoke to me about it first, I think."

"Q. How much did he say he wanted?"

"A. The first time he spoke of money I think he said he wanted \$10,000 or \$15,000."

"Q. From whom would he get the money?"

"A. The first time he spoke about it he did not know any particular plan to get it; at the same time, he told me that he wanted to claim an indemnity from the Canadian Government. He said that the Canadian Government owed him about \$100,000, and then the question arose who the persons were whom he would have to talk to the Government about the indemnity. Some time after that, the prisoner told me that he had an interview with Father André, and that he had made peace with the Church; that since his arrival in the country he had tried to separate the people from the clergy; that until that time he was at open war almost with the clergy. He said that he went to the church with Father André, and in the presence of another priest and the Blessed Sacrament he had made peace, and said that he would never again do anything against the clergy. Father André told him he would use his influence with the Government to obtain for him \$35,000. He said that he would be contented with \$35,000 then, and that he would settle with the Government himself for the balance of the \$100,000. That agreement took place at Prince Albert. The agreement took place at St. Laurent, and then Father André went back to his mission at Prince Albert."

"Q. Before December were there meetings at which Riel spoke, and at which you were present?"

"A. Yes."

"Q. How many?"

"A. Till the 24th February. I assisted at seven meetings, to the best of my knowledge."

"Q. Did the prisoner tell you what he would do if the Government paid him the indemnity in question?"

"A. Yes."

"Q. What did he tell you?"

"A. He said if he got the money he wanted from the Government, he would go wherever the Government wished to send him. He had told that to Father André. If he was an embarrassment to the Government by remaining in the North-West he would even go to the Province of Quebec. He said also that if he got the money he would go to the United States and start a paper, and raise the other nationalities in the States. He said: 'Before the grass is that high in this country, you will see foreign armies in this country.' He said 'I will commence by destroying Manitoba, and then I will come and destroy the North-West and take possession of the North-West.'"

Much has been made of the argument that the prisoner came here at the request of others, but for which he would have remained away, and that being here he desired to return to the United States, and would have done so were it not for the urgency of those who had induced him to come. As to this, Charles Nolin swore as follows:—

"Q. Was there a meeting about that time, about the 8th or 24th of February?"

"A. A meeting?"

"Q. At which the prisoner spoke?"

"A. There was a meeting on the 24th of February, when the prisoner was present."

"Q. What took place at that meeting; did the prisoner say anything about his departing for the United States?"

"A. Yes."

"Q. What did the prisoner tell you about that?"

"A. He told me that it would be well to try and make it appear as if they wanted to stop him going to the States. Five or six persons were appointed to go among the people, and when Riel's going away was spoken about, the people were to say 'No, No.' It was expected that Gagnon would be there, but he was not there. Riel never had any intention of leaving the country."

"Q. Who instructed the people to do that?"

"A. Riel suggested that himself."

"Q. Was that put in practice?"

"A. Yes."

The counsel for the other half-breeds who pleaded guilty also stated in court that Riel had himself procured the request to him to come to this country; and on two occasions in court these learned gentlemen most earnestly and indignantly denounced the prisoner as one who had misled and deceived their clients, and to whom all the misery and ruin which this unhappy rebellion had brought upon them was to be attributed.

But if an unselfish desire could be credited to the prisoner to redress political wrongs even by armed rebellion, it would at least have been necessary to disprove the charge which lies against him, that in his own mind the claims of humanity had no place, but that he was prepared to carry out his designs by bringing upon an unoffending people all the horrors of an Indian rising, with the outrages and atrocities which, as he knew full well, must inevitably accompany it. That this cannot be disproved, but that it is beyond all dispute true, the evidence makes plain.

From the beginning, even before Duck Lake, he was found in company with Indians armed, and to the end he availed himself of their assistance.

In that engagement, the first occasion of bloodshed, according to the evidence of the witnesses Astley, Ross and William Tompkins, the Indians composed a large portion of his force—one-third, or thereabouts.