

the children who attended the schools, while the balance was made up out of church funds contributed by its members, implemented by grants from the council of Assiniboia as we see by reference to the minutes, and as the accounts of the Hudson Bay Company more fully prove. During this period, Roman Catholics had no interest in or control over the schools of Protestant denomination and the members of the Protestant denominations had no interest in or control over the schools of the Roman Catholics. That was the position of affairs in 1869 before we took possession of that country on paying to the Hudson Bay Company for the relinquishment of their rights the sum of £300,000. I have not detained the House with any extended remarks this session, and my apology for dealing with this matter at some length now is that the question is of sufficient importance to entitle us to consider carefully just what occurred in the early years of the settlement of that territory. I will not take up the time of the House by referring to the preliminary stages in connection with the acquisition of the Northwest Territories and Rupert's Land; but I will deal immediately with what occurred when we started in to take possession of that great country. I want to refer, first, to the telegraphic despatch on the 26th of November, 1869, which was sent through Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies to His Excellency Sir John Young, Her Majesty's then representative in British North America.

The Queen has heard with surprise and regret that certain misguided persons have banded themselves together to oppose by force the entry of the future Lieutenant Governor into our territory in Red River. Her Majesty does not distrust the loyalty of her subjects in that settlement, and can only ascribe to misunderstanding or misrepresentation their opposition to a change planned for their advantage. She relies on your government to use every effort to explain whatever misunderstandings may have arisen, to ascertain their wants and conciliate the good-will of the people of Red River settlement. But in the meantime she authorizes you to signify to them the sorrow and displeasure with which she views the unreasonable and lawless proceedings which have taken place, and her expectation that if any person desires to express or have any complaints to make respecting their condition and prospects, they will address themselves to the Governor General of Canada. The Queen expects from her representative that as he will be always ready to receive well-founded grievances, so will he exercise all the power and authority she has entrusted him in the support of the order and the suppression of unlawful disturbances.

On the 6th day of December Sir John Young, Her Majesty's representative in British North America, addressed the following letter to Governor McTavish, of the Hudson Bay Company:

Mr. PRINGLE.

Government House, Ottawa.

W. McTavish, Esq., Governor of Assiniboia.

Sir,—I have the honour to address you in my capacity as representative of the Queen and Governor General of Her Majesty's British North America possessions, and inclose for your information a copy of a message received from Earl Grenville in respect to the account I sent officially of the events occurring in Red River settlement. The message conveys the mature opinion of the imperial cabinet, the proclamation I have issued is based upon it, and you will observe that it requests all who have desires to express or complaints to make to refer to me as invested with authority on behalf of the British government and the inhabitants of Rupert's Land and all classes and persuasions may rest assured that Her Majesty's government has no intention of interfering with or setting aside, or allowing others to interfere with the religion, the rights or the franchises hitherto enjoyed or to which they may prove themselves equal. Make what use you think best of this communication and of the inclosed.

Letters of the same purport were sent to the Protestant Bishop of Rupert's Land and to the Vicar General of the diocese of St. Boniface, who acted in the place and stead of the Catholic Bishop during the presence of the latter at Rome. I would like to refer also to the proclamation under Her Majesty's Privy Seal by His Excellency the Governor General, Sir John Young, Baronet:

By His Excellency the Right Hon. Sir John Young, Baronet, a member of Her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the most honourable Order of the Bath, Knight Grand Cross of the most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor General of Canada.

To all and every the loyal subjects of Her Majesty the Queen, and to all whom these presents may come, greeting:

The Queen has charged me as her representative to inform you that certain misguided persons in her settlement on the Red river have banded themselves together to oppose by force the entry into her Northwest Territories of the officers selected to administer in her name the government when the Territories are united to the Dominion of Canada under the authority of the late Act of parliament of the United Kingdom, that those persons have also forcibly and with violence prevented other of her loyal subjects from ingress into the country.

Her Majesty feels assured that she may rely upon the loyalty of her subjects in the Northwest and believes those men who have illegally joined together have done so from some misrepresentation.

The Queen is convinced that in sanctioning the union of the Northwest Territories with Canada she is promoting the best interests of the residents, and at the same time strengthening and consolidating her North American possessions as part of the British Empire. You may judge then, of the sorrow and displeasure with which the Queen views the unreasonable and lawless proceedings which have occurred.

Her Majesty commands me to state to you that she will always be ready through me as her representative, to redress all well-founded