

is not in accordance with the truth, but it is not the whole truth. It leaves the impression that we took the initiative of our own accord to have these gentlemen come from Manitoba to discuss that matter with us, whereas the truth is, that we simply responded to an invitation which came to us from the government of Manitoba. I have brought here the whole correspondence which has taken place upon this subject. I stated a moment ago that from the month of June, 1896 to the month of January, 1905, we had not received a communication from the government of Manitoba asking for the extension of their boundaries, and I repeat the statement. The first communication we received upon this subject is the following:

Department of the Provincial Secretary,
Winnipeg, Man.

January 20th, 1905.

Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, G.C.M.G.,
President of the King's Privy Council for
Canada, Ottawa, Ont.

Sir,—The government of Manitoba, on a motion of the legislative assembly, has to-day forwarded to His Excellency the Governor General, a memorial relating to the extension of the boundaries of the province, and I am directed to write you and request that you will be pleased to appoint an early date for receiving a deputation from the government of Manitoba in relation to the matter. It would be appreciated if such a date could be named for the first or second week in February.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. McFADDEN,
Provincial Secretary.

To this letter I answered in the following terms:

Ottawa, 24th January, 1905.

Dear Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 20th instant, informing me that the legislative assembly has forwarded to His Excellency the Governor General in Council, a memorial relating to the extension of the boundaries of the province of Manitoba, and asking to have a date fixed for receiving a deputation from the government of Manitoba in connection with this matter.

The memorial has not yet been received at the office of the Privy Council. I shall bring your request to the attention of the government as soon as possible after its receipt, and will communicate with you again later on.

Yours very sincerely,

WILFRID LAURIER.

Hon. D. H. McFadden,
Manitoba.

In accordance with the promise there made, when we had received the memorial from the government of Manitoba, I brought it to the attention of the Privy Council, and I was authorized to send the following telegram:

Ottawa, 13th February, 1905.

Hon. D. H. McFadden,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

With reference to your last memorial re extension of limits, will be glad to receive your delegation at any time convenient to you.

WILFRID LAURIER.

That telegram is dated the 13th of February, and on the same day I received the following telegram from Mr. McFadden:

Winnipeg, Man., 13th February, 1905.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier,
Ottawa, Ont.

Replying to your telegram of even date, Hon. Messrs. Rogers and Campbell have been appointed to confer with your government regarding extension of boundaries. They leave here to-morrow, will reach Ottawa Thursday 16th. Kindly notify them at Russell House as to time and place for interview suitable to your own convenience.

D. H. McFADDEN.

In accordance with this last telegram inviting me to fix a time and to inform Mr. Campbell and Mr. Rogers at what time we would be ready to receive them, I caused my secretary in compliance with their desire, on the 16th of February to send the following letter:

Ottawa, 16th February, 1905.

Dear Sir,—Sir Wilfrid Laurier will be glad to receive you to-morrow the 17th instant at 12.30 o'clock in his office, Privy Council.

Yours respectfully,
(Sgd.) RODOLPHE BOUDREAU.
Private Secretary.

That was on the 16th of February, and on the following day accordingly, there took place at my office the interview with the delegates from Manitoba. There had been a subcommittee of the Privy Council appointed to receive the delegates, and the ministers present on that occasion were, the Minister of Justice, the Postmaster General and myself; I think the Secretary of State was present, but of that I am not quite sure.

I take now the statement of Mr. Rogers as to what took place then. Mr. Rogers says:

During that interview we presented the claim of the province as urgently and strongly as possible. In reply Sir Wilfrid said, that if we would be good enough to remain in Ottawa for three or four days he would again send for us and would then be in a position to give us an answer.

As to the latter statement I am sorry to say that my memory is not in accordance with the memory of Mr. Rogers. I do not want to make any imputation, but I flatter myself that I have a pretty good memory and my memory is corroborated by that of my colleagues. What took place was this: We heard the petition presented to us by the delegates from Manitoba. Mr. Rogers was the spokesman. I do not think Mr. Campbell said anything at all, but if he did he took a very indifferent part in the discussion which was mainly carried on by Mr. Rogers. He presented to us a repetition of all the claims which are advanced in the state paper now on the table of the House. He asked that the