



RED RIVER.

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RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 21 July 1870;—for,

“ COPY of all PETITIONS that have been addressed to Her Majesty or to Her Majesty’s Government from the INHABITANTS of the RED RIVER DISTRICT or other Settlements or Districts within the Boundaries of British Territories in *North America*, from 1860 up to the present time.”

Colonial Office, }  
10 August 1870. }

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W. MONSELL.

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(*Viscount Milton.*)

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,*  
10 August 1870.

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SCHEDULE.

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COPY of all PETITIONS that have been addressed to Her Majesty or to Her Majesty's Government from the INHABITANTS of the RED RIVER DISTRICT or other Settlements or Districts within the Boundaries of British Territories in *North America*, from 1860 up to the present time.

— No. 1. —

PETITION to the Canadian Legislature for Annexation of Red River Settlement and North-West Territory to Canada.

To the Honourable Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada in Parliament assembled :\*

The Humble Petition of the Undersigned, a British Subject, of the "North-West," and a Canadian Elector,

Most respectfully representeth :—

THAT in 1857, the people of Red River Settlement, by petition to the Canadian Parliament, earnestly prayed :† "That such measures might be devised and adopted as would extend to them the protection of the Canadian Government, laws, and institutions."

2. That in 1857-58, exploration of the region west of Lake Superior, to the Saskatchewan, by the Canadian Government, ascertained the fact of its high fertility; presenting, in the lower valleys of the Saskatchewan and Red River alone, a "total area of arable land of first quality, of 11,100,000 (eleven millions one hundred thousand) acres," while of "land fit for grazing purposes, the area" (according to the same authority, viz.: Blue Book, Canada,— "North-West Territory," 1859, page 32) "is much more considerable, and may with propriety be assumed as fully equal in extent." That, in fact, the country offers large inducement for settlement.

3. That in autumn, 1857, the Committee of the British House of Commons on this subject of the "North-West," reported, *inter alia*, as follows, viz.:— "Clause 7. Among the various subjects of Imperial policy which it is important to attain, your Committee consider that it is essential to meet the just and reasonable wishes of Canada to be enabled to annex to her territory such portions of the land in the neighbourhood as may be available to her for the purposes of settlement, with which lands she is willing to open and maintain communications, and for which she will provide the means of local administration. Your Committee apprehend that the districts on the Red River and the Saskatchewan are among those likely to be desired for early occupation. It is of great importance that the peace and good order of those districts should be effectually secured. Your Committee trust that there will be no difficulty in effecting such arrangements between Her Majesty's Government and the Hudson's Bay Company, by which these districts may be ceded to Canada on equitable principles, and within the districts thus annexed to her the authority of the Hudson's Bay Company would, of course, entirely cease." "Clause 14. Your Committee cannot doubt but that, when such grave interests are at stake, all the parties concerned will approach the subject in a spirit of conciliation and justice, and they therefore indulge a confident hope that the Government will be enabled in the next Session of Parliament to present a Bill which shall lay the foundation of an equitable and satisfactory arrangement, in the event, which we consider probable, of legislation being found necessary to that purpose."

4. That

\* The same, *mutatis mutandis*, was addressed to the other two Branches of the Legislature.  
 † The Petition was signed by five hundred and ninety-five men, principally (it is to be presumed) heads of families, and representing the mass of the people; and also by the leading Indian Chiefs of the country.

4. That the measures sought have yet to be effectually initiated.

5. That the forlorn colonists who appeal to us are of British and French Canadian origin; men whose most cherished associations attach them to the British flag, with a fervour which truly finds aspiration in the following words of their Petition (viz.: of 1857—paragraph 19, as printed):—"When we contemplate," say they, "the mighty tide of immigration which has flowed towards the north these six years past, and has already filled the valley of the Upper Mississippi with settlers, and which will this year flow over the height of land and fill up the valley of the Red River, is there no danger of being carried away by that flood, and that we may thereby lose our nationality? We love the British name," &c. &c.

6. The contingency deprecated seems now about to fall. According to current report, the Legislature of Minnesota is moving for annexation of the Settlement to that State; a proceeding which, from the augury of Texas, is (especially under the imminences of our hour), fraught with issues momentous not only to the distant denizens of the North-west, but to contiguous Canada, and to British interests generally in America North.

7. That the geographical position of the Red River Valley—centre of British North America—commanding, commercially, the whole great Winnipeg watershed of nearly half a million of square miles, and of fifteen hundred miles of wheat-zone, reaching to the richest known gold-field in the world, is, to every British subject, and more immediately to every Canadian, a point of utmost importance, and one worthy of all conservation and safeguard.

8. That the feasibility of a commercial route, at comparatively small cost, between Canada and Red River Settlement, has, by the surveys of 1857-58, been carefully ascertained, and amply stated in detail in official reports of that work.

9. That as to "Annexation to Canada" (of which from their report, as above cited, some hope appears to have been held out to the Honourable Committee) your petitioner humbly submits that the principles of public polity, *ad hoc*, enunciated by that body of British statesmen, also the known autonomy (largely Canadian) of the interesting colonists seeking it, and the special circumstances of the case, seem to call urgently for its immediate realization.

10. That the consideration which (and that, with some degree of solemnity) weighs most in the mind of your humblest petitioner, on this momentous subject, is, that it is the duty of all British subjects, as constituents *solidaires* of Britain in America, to maintain inviolate and inviolable, as best we may, that grand heritage in this "New World," from Atlantic to Pacific, which Providence has committed to us; and in the fulfilment of that trust, ever to follow the sacred, primary principle in human progress, of "settlement," cultivation, civilization: with the incidental duty of faithful guardianship of the aboriginal, in his tutelary state; and observing ever the jealously marked lines of "vested rights," whether legally or equitably acquired, of all fellow members of the great British family.

11. That the immediate danger which threatens the integrity of present Imperial rule in British America is the subtle ingression of a foreign power into its very centre—a strategical—a key point, of utmost significance and imminence; outflanking Canada—yea, the British provinces and colonies, east and west, on this continent; and menacing, with a power fast accumulating under passing events on our borders, our very national existence. Wherefore, your very humble petitioner, as a loyal British American in Canada, most respectfully and most earnestly prays that your Honourable House of Legislative Assembly will be pleased to advise or adopt such measures in the premises, as may, in the wisdom of your Honourable House, seem best calculated to meet the emergency in question.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c. &c.

*Malcolm McLeod*, (Barrister, &c.)

Canada, 24 April 1862.

— No. 2. —

(No. 22.)

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Officer Administering the Government to the Right Honourable the Earl of *Carnarvon*.

No. 2.  
Officer Administering the Government to the Right Hon. the Earl of Carnarvon.

My Lord,

Montreal, 11 February 1867.

THE accompanying memorial to Her Majesty, adopted at a public meeting of the inhabitants of the Red River Settlement, has been sent to me with a request that I would transmit it to your Lordship.

11 Feb. 1867.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *J. Michel*,  
Lieut. General.

## Enclosure in No. 2.

RESOLUTIONS adopted at a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants of the Red River Settlement.

Encl. in No. 2.

1. Resolved, that it is the earnest desire of the people of Red River to see the Lake Superior route to British Columbia opened up for commerce and emigration, and to be united with the Grand Confederation of British North America.

2. Resolved, that in consequence of the great political changes which the British North American provinces are now on the eve of undergoing, and the settlement of the Hudson's Bay question, that no further delay should take place in creating the Red River a Crown colony, with the view of joining confederation under conditions which may be submitted for the approval of the people, who are fully alive to the great importance both to the Red River and Great Britain, of uniting under one grand confederation of the provinces, to advance British interests from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

3. Resolved, that in order to at once give an impetus to the immediate and general development of this vast country under confederation, a free port of entry should be granted, and the immediate opening up of the Lake Superior outlet for trade, with a regular and punctual postal communication.

4. Resolved, that the people desire further to impress upon the Imperial Government the importance of having a detachment of troops at Red River at the earliest opportunity, and would suggest as the shortest and most economical route through British territory, the Lake Superior route, which could easily be made passable for troops, with temporary improvements by a party of Sappers and Miners, and the voluntary assistance of the settlers between Lake of the Woods and Red River.

5. Resolved, that a memorial be drawn up and forwarded to the Imperial Government through the Secretary of the Colonies, briefly setting forth our views.

6. Resolved, that the press of the province of British North America and England be requested to publish the foregoing resolutions and memorial, and that the thanks of the meeting be hereby tendered to those newspapers who have already warmly espoused our cause.

It was then moved by Mr. McKenney, and seconded by Mr. O'Lone, that before adjourning the meeting, in the meantime, a committee be appointed, consisting of the following gentlemen, viz., Andrew McDermott, Esq., Dr. Schultz, Colonel Robinson, and Mr. Spence, to draft a memorial to be submitted at some future time for public signature.

The meeting then adjourned, and before leaving three hearty cheers were given for our gracious Queen and Royal Family.

To Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland,  
&c. &c. &c., in Council assembled.

The Memorial of the undersigned, Merchants, Traders, &c., &c., loyal Inhabitants of that part of Rupert's Land, the Red River Settlement,

Humbly sheweth,

THAT whereas, it is the earnest wish and desire of the inhabitants of this isolated portion of your Most Gracious Majesty's Dominions in British North America to be created a Crown Colony, with a view of being embraced in the Grand Confederation of the provinces of British North America, to foster and protect British interests from the Atlantic to the Pacific;

Your Majesty's loyal memorialists would here briefly set forth their reasons that no further delay should take place in granting the prayer of this memorial; the provinces of British North America being now on the eve of a great political change; together with the

settlement between your Majesty's Government and the Hudson's Bay Company, for the sovereignty and freehold of this valuable portion of your Majesty's possessions.

Therefore your Majesty's memorialists consider the time has now arrived when they may fairly urge upon your Majesty's Government the importance of favourably considering this memorial and prayer of your Majesty's loyal subjects in Rupert's Land, and thereby taking action thereon at the approaching Session of Parliament, and that the same may become law before dissolution of that Parliament.

Your Majesty's memorialists would here humbly represent for the consideration of your Majesty's Government, the rapid advancement of civilisation and settlement by our adjoining American neighbours, now extending to the confines of the boundary line. While notwithstanding our superior climate and vast agricultural and mineral resources, we must remain helpless to advance in developing the same, having no outlet or market, besides being entirely indebted to the enterprise of a foreign power for any postal or other communication with the outer world; the imports and exports of the country for the past year amounting to over 360,000 *l.* sterling.

That this state of affairs in such a valuable portion of your Majesty's possessions will now cease, notwithstanding previous unsuccessful applications, is the humble and earnest hope of your Majesty's most loyal memorialists.

Your Majesty's memorialists would humbly suggest to your Majesty's Government, as a means of the immediate development of this vast country, viz., with the creation of a Crown colony, the at once opening up of the Lake Superior route to British Columbia for commerce and emigration, and a regular postal communication, an early settlement of Indian land titles, and the presence of a military detachment.

Wherefore your Majesty's memorialists humbly pray that your Most Gracious Majesty may be pleased to recommend immediate action to be taken by your Majesty's Government on this memorial, and that the creation of this country to a Crown colony may become law during the approaching Session of Parliament, and your Majesty's humble memorialists as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 84 Signatures.]

Red River Settlement, 17 January 1867.

— No. 3. —

No. 3.

Officer Administering the Government to the Right Hon the Earl of Carnarvon.

22 Feb. 1867.

\*Page 5.

(No. 30.)

COPY of DESPATCH from the Officer Administering the Government to the Right Honourable the Earl of *Carnarvon*.

My Lord,

Montreal, 22 February 1867.

IN my Despatch, No 22,\* of the 11th February, I transmitted to your Lordship a memorial from the inhabitants of the Red River Settlement to Her Majesty the Queen, praying that their territory should be made a Crown Colony.

The question of the expediency either of such a change as they desire, or of the union of the Red River Settlement to Canada having thus been brought under my notice, I have thought it my duty to state my views on the subject for your information, and I have accordingly drawn up the enclosed memorandum, which I have now the honour to submit to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(signed) *J. Michel*,  
Lieut. General.

Enclosure in No. 3.

Encl. in No. 3.

MEMORANDUM ON RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.

EXTRACT from a DESPATCH, No. 95, from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General of Canada, dated 17 June 1865.

“ON the fourth point, the subject of the North-Western Territory, the Canadian Ministers desired that that territory should be made over to Canada, and undertook to negotiate with the Hudson's Bay Company for the termination of their rights, on condition that the indemnity, if any, should be paid by a loan to be raised by Canada under the Imperial guarantee; with the sanction of the Cabinet, we assented to this proposal, undertaking that if the negotiation should be successful, we, on the part of the Crown, being satisfied that the amount of the indemnity was reasonable, and the security sufficient, would apply to the Imperial Parliament to sanction the agreement and to guarantee the amount.”

1. By

1. By this extract it appears that the Canadian Government is willing to negotiate for the acquirement of the rights of the Hudson's Bay Company.

2. As Canada negotiates to take over the territory of the Company, under the Protectorate of Great Britain, so it is expedient to consider what means the territory has of protecting itself from American encroachment, and what power Canada or Great Britain may have of aiding it to resist such encroachment; and, finally, what probability there is of such encroachment being made.

3. To understand this matter, the position of the Americans nearest the frontier, as also that of the Hudson's Bay settlers at Fort Garry must be considered. American position.

4. The nearest American port is at St. Paul's, some 430 miles from Pembina, the border British settlement. This latter place is 70 miles from Fort Garry.

The whole route is open prairie.

The American system of railways has as yet only extended to La Crosse, about 270 miles from St. Paul's, and as from St. Paul's the advance by settlers towards the frontier is but slow, so it may be some years before a railroad reaches Pembina.

5. The Red River Settlement at Fort Garry, the present capital of the Hudson's Bay Company's possessions, and their grand entrepôt, consists of about 10,000 inhabitants, the men being a race of hardy hunters, well accustomed to the use of arms, and each of them possessing a gun or rifle. They are moreover accomplished horsemen. Position of Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Garry.

They are reported to be a semi-barbarous race, but would, no doubt, fight well against an invading force, and at a great advantage from their habits of life, and their knowledge of the country.

6. The Settlement may also at present reckon very largely for its defence on the assistance of the Indians, who, from the faithful dealing of the Company with them, have learnt to put trust in the British name, and, from this cause, and also from their hatred of the Americans, would be trustworthy allies. Indian Allies.

This state of things, however, may not last.

At present the Indians are protected from themselves by the prohibition, and consequent absence of ardent spirits, except in such small quantities as can be surreptitiously introduced; and unfair dealing on the part of traders is also prevented by the system of barter rigorously enforced by the Hudson's Bay Company.

But it appears probable that if the rule of the Company is terminated by the union of its territory to Canada, partial freedom of trade, leading to extreme license (with its concomitant evils to the unfortunate Indian) will be introduced. Unscrupulous traders will then soon by their dishonest dealings destroy in the minds of the Indians that feeling of attachment to England which at present would render them her faithful allies, and thus would lay them open to American seduction.

In such case the Red River Settlement would be easily approached by a limited American force.

7. Three routes are at present used to Fort Garry.

Routes to Fort Garry.

First. From Hudson's Bay, at York.

By this route of 700 miles the furs, except buffalo skins, are sent to England, and through York provisions are brought to supply all the northern trappers' posts; but as this bay is only open for about six weeks in the year, this port may be reckoned for general trade or defensive purposes, useless.

Second. From the head of Lake Superior, at Pidgeon's Bay. This is a complete water course of 700 miles, but so replete with rapids, and consequent long portages, and so beset with natural difficulties, as to make the construction of a water communication by this line a matter of much difficulty, and the expense would probably be so enormous as to render the adoption of this route almost out of the question.

The third route is by the beaten track through the prairies from Fort Garry to St. Paul's. Its whole length, except the first 70 miles, being through American territory. By this road at present all the buffalo skins are exported.

It may here be remarked that, in case of necessity, Fort Garry can supply itself with provisions.

8. The result of this examination shows that in the event of war, as Lake Superior would be held by the United States navy, Fort Garry is effectually isolated from Canada, and that, in any case, until canals or railways are constructed, the United States must possess the only channel through which all the trade of the Red River Settlement must pass.

9. With regard to the future. Can the Red River Settlement be released from this dependence on the United States?

This question cannot be satisfactorily answered until the country between Fort Garry and Lake Superior has been well surveyed.

According to what is known at present a water communication appears almost impossible.

One route, that from Pidgeon Bay, has been already discussed, but even were it practicable, the fact that it is close to the United States territory would render it useless for defensive purposes.

There



There is another water communication possible commencing at Fort William, but here again the difficulties for the first 50 miles are almost insurmountable.

10. Then, as to railways :

A railway might probably be constructed from Pidgeon Bay, north of the water communication, but this would be too close to the American frontier. A second, which is not liable to the last objection, might, perhaps, be projected from Fort William : but here there are vast natural difficulties :

First. A rise of 800 feet in the first 50 miles.

Second. One hundred miles of sterility and swamp unfit for settlement.

11. The following conclusions are, therefore, arrived at :—

First. That at present the channel of all the trade to and from the Red River Settlement is in the hands of the United States.

Secondly. That it is doubtful whether water communication, safe for defensive purposes, can ever be made from the Settlement to Lake Superior.

Thirdly. That, until thorough surveys are made, the possibility of the construction of a remunerative line of railway to Lake Superior cannot be estimated.

Fourthly. That even supposing a water communication, or a railway, were opened from Fort Garry to Lake Superior, all use of it in time of war would be impossible, unless a British gun-boat fleet could enter that lake. This entrance could not be effected until the Ottawa and French River Navigation to Lake Huron is opened, nor even then till a canal is constructed on the British side of the Sault St. Marie.

It is, however, reported that this latter work would be attended with no difficulty, and with but trifling expense, as it would not exceed a mile in length ; but it must be recollected that such a canal would be close to the American frontier, and that its destruction could not be prevented in winter in case of hostilities with the United States, without a strong military force to hold it.

On a careful consideration of the whole question the opinion I have formed is, that until a safe communication for military purposes is completed between Canada and Fort Garry, either the union of the Hudson's Bay territory to Canada, or the creation of a Crown colony at the Red River Settlement, would be a source of weakness and danger both to Canada and England.

Montreal, 20 February 1867.

— No. 4. —

No. 4.

Viscount Monck  
to his Grace the  
Duke of Buckingham  
and Chandos.

19 July 1867.

No. 24.)

COPY of DESPATCH from the Viscount *Monck* to his Grace the Duke of  
*Buckingham and Chandos*.

Government House, Quebec,  
19 July 1867.

My Lord Duke,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a memorial to Her Majesty the Queen from the inhabitants of Portage La Prairie Settlement, in Rupert's Land, which they have requested me to forward to your Grace ; and I also enclose a copy of certain resolutions passed at a public meeting held in the same locality.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Monck*.

Encl. 1, in No. 4.

Enclosure 1, in No. 4.

To Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland,  
&c. &c. &c., in Council assembled.

The Memorial of the Inhabitants of Portage La Prairie Settlement, in Rupert's Land,  
British North America.

Humbly sheweth,

THAT in consequence of British law and protection only extending through the Council of Assiniboia, for a radius of 50 miles round Fort Garry, your Majesty's loyal subjects, inhabitants of this settlement, are left totally without law or protection, civil or criminal, and wholly different from any other settlement in any part of the British empire.

That this settlement contains a population of nearly 500, exclusive of Indians, and  
although

## RED RIVER SETTLEMENT, &c

although nearer to the United States frontier than the adjoining settlement of Red River, and notwithstanding its vastly superior agricultural resources and climate, your Majesty's loyal memorialists are left helpless to develop the same or to attract immigration, from the want of law and protection.

Your Majesty's memorialists would here humbly represent that, in the opinion of settlers here, farmers who have immigrated from Canada, this settlement and the country extending westward for hundreds of miles is proved by actual experience to be one of the richest agricultural countries in the world, and is even acknowledged by the Government of the State of Minnesota, in its emigration pamphlets, to be vastly superior.

Your Majesty's memorialists would further humbly represent that, with the proper machinery to develop the resources of this vast, rich, and beautiful country, it would become the most attractive point of emigration in the British empire, and that the facilities offered by nature for the construction of a railway to the Rocky Mountains, for cheapness of construction, is unequalled, being one vast prairie and wooded level, and the depth of snow in winter rarely exceeding a few inches.

Your Majesty's memorialists humbly trust, that with the Confederation of the British North American Provinces, the time has arrived when they may fairly urge upon your Majesty's Government the importance of favourably considering this memorial, and immediate action thereon, or your Majesty's Royal sanction for our development, under the care and protection of the Confederate Government of British North America, in the interim of a final settlement with the Hudson's Bay Company.

Wherefore, your Majesty's memorialists humbly pray that your gracious Majesty may be pleased to cause such action to be taken as will give immediate protection to your Majesty's loyal memorialists, and the privileges of British subjects.

And as in duty bound they will ever pray.

(signed) *Thos. Spence, and others.*

Caledonia, Portage la Prairie,  
1 June 1867.

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### Enclosure 2, in No. 4.

Encl. 2, in No. 4.

At a Meeting of the Settlers of Portage la Prairie, Rupert's Land, held at the Store of Mr. Thomas Spence, Caledonia, on Friday, the 31st day of May 1867, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

1. Moved by Mr. John McLean, and seconded by Mr. Thomas Anderson, "That this meeting earnestly desires to lay before the British and British North American Confederate Governments their regret and despondency, as loyal British subjects, left to continue in their anomalous condition, notwithstanding that they inhabit a section of the country which, for salubrity of climate, richness of soil, and luxuriansness of vegetation, and, as an agricultural country, capable of supporting in comparative affluence millions of people, cannot be excelled, if equalled, in any part of the world."—Carried.

2. Moved by Mr. F. A. Bird, and seconded by Mr. Garvin Garnoch, "That this meeting desires to express, as briefly as possible, their anomalous condition, viz., that, being beyond the 50-mile limit from Fort Garry of the jurisdiction of the Council of Assiniboia, this settlement, containing a population of nearly 500, is totally without law or protection, civil or criminal, and entirely at the mercy of lawless bands of Indians and others."—Carried.

3. Moved by Mr. Sinclair, and seconded by Mr. C. Whiteford, "That efforts have been made by the people to organise and carry on a local government, but failed to continue the same successfully through a want of unity and dignity in the Government."—Carried.

4. Moved by Mr. Corrigan, and seconded by Mr. Thomas Anderson, "That, with the view of representing the sentiments of this people to the British Government, a memorial be addressed to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, praying for redress, and the privilege of British law and protection being extended to them as loyal British subjects; and that Messrs. Spence, McClean, and Garvin Garnoch be a committee to draft and forward the same to the proper authorities, and that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the Canadian Government, with a request that the same may be laid before the House at the first meeting of the Confederate Parliament of British North America."—Carried.

5. Moved by Mr. Hay, and seconded by Mr. J. Whiteford, "That the Honourable George Brown, M.P., be requested to present a copy of these resolutions and memorial at the first Confederate Parliament, and move to bring in a Bill for the temporary protection of this settlement under the Confederate Government, with Her Gracious Majesty's sanction."—Carried.

6. Moved by Mr. F. A. Bird, and seconded by Mr. McLean, "That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to the chairman and secretary for the dignified manner in which the meeting has been conducted, and that three cheers be given for the Queen and Royal family."—Carried.

(signed) *John McLean,*  
Chairman.

Caledonia,  
Portage du Prairie Settlement,  
10 June 1867.

— No. 5. —

COPY of LETTER from *Thos. Spence, Esq.,* and others, to *Angus Morrison, Esq., M.P.*

No. 5.  
*Thos. Spence,*  
*Esq., and others,*  
to *Angus Morrison,*  
*Esq. M.P.*  
17 Jan. 1868.

Portage la Prairie, *viâ* Red River Settlement,  
17 January 1868.

Dear Sir,

THE President and Council of Manitoba, Rupert's Land, have the honour to request that you will lay before the Government and Parliament of the Dominion of Canada this communication with information, and to request on our behalf from the Government, at the earliest convenience after consideration, a reply for the ultimate guidance and consideration of this Government.

1. For the information of your Government we would, in the first place, beg to state that the election of the President and Council and organisation of this Government only took place in the early part of the present month, and that the election was regularly conducted by the vote of the people. (In the adjoining colony of Assiniboia the election of the Council, the supposed representatives of the people, takes place in London, England).

This settlement has hitherto been totally unprovided for by law or protection, either by the Imperial Government or the Hudson Bay Company, without even a flag of acknowledgment, anomalous to any other British settlement in the Empire, all of which has been twice fully laid before Her Majesty's Government by petition of the people, praying for redress and protection, and to be admitted into the (or even attached *pro tem.*) Confederation of the Dominion of Canada, of which no further acknowledgment has been received than the mere official replies of receipt, and that the same "had been laid at the foot of the Throne."

Meantime, the increase of crime and the overbearing tone of the Indians increases towards the settlers, some of them emigrants of recent date from Canada; plunder and robbery daily going on, self-preservation demanded the immediate organisation of an independent Government.

2. The boundaries of the infant Government of Manitoba for jurisdiction is declared to be as follows:—

South, by the boundary line between the United States and British North America. East, by the boundary line of the jurisdiction of the Government of Assiniboia. West, by the River Souris, or Mouse river, running to the north, and the little Saskatchewan running to the south into the Assiniboine, and on the north by Lake Manitoba, as far as Manitoba House, which area embraces a large portion of the garden of the North-west.

3. The Council of Manitoba have recently, with much satisfaction, learned the resolutions regarding this country, and brought down to the House by the Honourable Mr. McDougall, on 30th November last; but, previous to this knowledge, this Council was pledged to the electors to act resolutely on either of the two following pledges, viz. :—

First. To know from the Government of the Dominion of Canada, in consequence of the 146th section of the "British North American Act of 1867," if that Government would be disposed to at once, under existing urgent circumstances, recognise the existence of this petty Government, or if we can be assured by your Government of our admission or attachment to the Dominion within six months.

Second. That should the reply of your Government prove unfavourable, as a last and desperate resource to throw ourselves upon the liberality and protection of the United States Government for recognition and ultimate annexation.

This

This step as a last resort, and after grave deliberation, is to this Council and people an extremely reluctant one; but when all the circumstances of their total neglect and patient endurance of many years' disappointment, and daily perceiving the rapid advancement of their American neighbours are considered, any liberal Government could not but sympathise with a neglected people, compelled to renounce their loyalty under such circumstances. But this Council sincerely hope and pray that the early and favourable reply of your Government will avert such a humiliation and a calamity, through which serious and complicated evils might arise between the several Governments interested.

We have, &c.  
(signed) *Thos. Spence,*  
President of Council.

David Cusitar,  
Malcolm Cumming,  
Frederick A. Bird,  
William Garrioch, } Council of Manitoba.

— No. 6. —

COPY of LETTER from *Thos. Spence*, Esq., to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, London.

La Prairie, Manitoba, *via* Red River  
Settlement, 19 February 1868.

My Lord,  
As President elect by the people of the newly-organised Government and Council of Manitoba in British Territory, I have the dutiful honour of laying before your Lordship, for the consideration of Her Most Gracious Majesty, our beloved Queen, the circumstances attending the creation of this self-supporting petty government in this isolated portion of Her Majesty's dominions; and as loyal British subjects we humbly and sincerely trust that Her Most Gracious Majesty and Her advisers will be pleased forthwith to give this Government favourable recognition, it being simply our aim to develop our resources, improve the condition of the people, and generally advance and preserve British interests in this rising far-west.

No. 6.  
*Thos. Spence,*  
Esq., to the  
Secretary of State  
for Foreign Affairs.  
19 Feb. 1868.

An humble address from the people of this settlement to Her Majesty the Queen, was forwarded through the Governor General of Canada in June last, briefly setting forth the superior attractions of this portion of the British dominions, the growing population, and the gradual influx of immigrants, humbly praying for recognition, law, and protection, to which no reply or acknowledgment has yet reached this people.

Early in January last, at a public meeting of settlers, who number over 400, it was unanimously declared to at once proceed to the election and construction of a Government, which has accordingly been duly carried out, a revenue imposed, public buildings commenced to carry out the laws, provisions made for Indian treaties, construction of roads and other public works tending to promote the interests and welfare of the people, the boundaries of the jurisdiction being, for the time being, proclaimed as follows:—

North, from a point running due north from the boundary line of Assiniboia, till it strikes Lake Manitoba; thence from the point struck, a straight line across the said lake to Manitoba Post; thence by longitudinal line 51, till it intersects line of latitude 100. West, by line of latitude 100 to the boundary line of the United States and British America.

East, the boundary line of the jurisdiction of the Council of Assiniboia.

South, the boundary line between British North America and the United States.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *Thos. Spence,*  
President of the Council.

RED RIVER.

COPY of all PETITIONS that have been addressed to Her Majesty or to Her Majesty's Government from the INHABITANTS of the RED RIVER DISTRICT or other Settlements or Districts within the Boundaries of British Territories in *North America*, from 1860 up to the present time.

*(Viscount Milton.)*

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
10 August 1870.*

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