THE CANADIAN UPRISING.

That the Indians as Well as the Half-Breeds Are Now on the War Path Is an Undeniable Fact.

Causes of the Pending Trouble.

In order to understand fully the circumstances which have led up to the insurrection in the Saskatchewan country it is necessary to go back to the uprising in Manitoba in 1869, known as the Red river rebellion, and the causes which led to that outbreak. The Red river rebellion was incident to the transfer by the Hudson's Bay company of its territory to the dominion government. For nearly two hundred years this great fur-trading company had not only enjoyed the exclusive right to the entire trade and traffic of the immense possessions granted by King Charles II. to Prince Rupert and his seventeen associates, but had made laws for and governed the territory, having complete lordship thereof, with full legislative, judicial and executive powers. The last renewal of the charter expired in 1859, and after that it was never renewed again, the company having no special advantages beyond its titled and splendid organization. In 1867 the act of parliament creating the Dominion of Canada contemplated the acquisition by the government of the Hudson Bay company's territory, and Dec. 1, 1869, was subsequently fixed as the date of the transfer. As the expiry of the charter had only deprived the company of its special licenses and privileges, and not of its original territory, it was necessary for the government to purchase the territory. The price agreed upon was £300,000, which looks like a very small sum in view of the immensity of the possessions involved. These proceedings awakened alarm in the hearts of the French half-breed settlers whose rude houses lined the banks of the Red and Assiniboine rivers. These people were mainly the descendants of the early traders, trappers and employees of the Hudson's Bay company. They were in the main an untutored people, except for such instruction as they received from their priests. Each head of family had his little strip of land which he cultivated, and the dwellings of the people were principally log huts. The titles under which they held their lands had been obtained from the Hudson's Bay company, where they had titles, but in many cases it would probably have been difficult to establish any legal or valid claim to the land. However, for years they had remained in undisturbed possession of the property on which they had built their cabins, and felt perfectly secure in the possession thereof. Their state had been the Hudson's Bay company. The rule of the company had been in the main mild and beneficent; and, although there had been occasional complaints against the company for arbitrariness in connection with trading—for it fixed its own prices, and hunters and traders were compelled to accept them or nothing—the people were generally well content with their lot. The proposed transfer of the company's possession gave promise of an entirely new and untried condition of things.

THE CAUSE OF ALARM.

The settlers felt insecure in their possessions and in regard to their civil rights. The course of the British government in placing them under the dominion of the Canadian government seemed to them arbitrary. Their voice had not been heard in the matter. They knew not what to expect. There was much murmuring, and as the time approached, when the transfer was to be consummated, the settlers of the Assiniboine and Red River districts began to organize, with Louis Riel at their head. They drew up a bill of rights in which they put forth, among other demands, the following:

First, the right to elect their own legislature; second, this legislature to have power to pass all laws of a local character by a two-thirds vote over the veto of the executive; third, a free homestead and pre-emption law, similar to that of the United States; fourth, a portion of the public land to be donated to the support of schools and construction of roads and bridges; fifth, treaties with the Indian tribes calculated to secure peace in the future.

William McDougall, who had been appointed as governor of the newly organized territory, arrived there in October. He found the roads in possession of the insurgents, and was driven from the country with his suite, and for some time lived in camp near Pembina, on the south side of the line. This was the first act of war on the part of the rebels. They immediately obtained possession of all the posts and forts, and were the masters of the country. A provisional government was organized at Fort Garry, with John Bruoise as president, Louis Riel commander-in-chief of the armies, and the young priest and patriot O'Donoghue was virtually secretary of state and secretary of war. The governor surrounded himself with twenty-four councilors, twelve selected from among the French half-breeds and twelve from among the English and Scotch element. The capture of Fort Garry had been easily accomplished and without bloodshed. In the meantime Gov. McDougall had attempted to interest the Indians in his cause, and made some futile attempts to gain possession of his province. A counter-revolution was also attempted by the Loyalists, and one James Scott was shot by order of Riel. The council of the provisional government was not always harmonious, the Scotch and English elements coming into occasional conflict with the French, and at times there seemed to be danger that the government would peter out altogether. It retained possession, however, all through the winter, spring and summer of 1870, until Sir Garnet Wolseley's arrival with British troops.

RIEL ABDICATES.

Instead of holding their ground, Riel and his compatriots fled from Fort Garry and crossed the United States' line, leaving their guns and ammunition behind them. Sir Garnet, on the 24th of August, took peaceable possession of the Fort and issued his famous orders. Riel was afterward banished for five years. Such was the Red river rebellion of 1869-70. It was practically a war without bloodshed, and contemporary history relates many acts of clemency and kindness on the part of the rebel leader, who did not seem disposed at any time to pursue a sanguinary policy. He has been severely criticised by friends of the movement for his course in vacating the country when he had practically everything in his own hands. General sentiment, however, is inclined to approve of his course as a very prudent one. In 1871 there was an attempt to renew the rebellion, but it speedily collapsed. In this campaign there were interested a company of about seventy-five Fenians under Gen. O'Neil. These camped in the woods near Pembina, and captured the British post opposite that place. An officer who was with this expedition claimed that the enterprise failed through the treachery of Riel.

The actual transfer of the Hudson Bay possessions had been delayed by the rebellion, and did not actually take place until July 15, 1870. Mr. Archibald, the lieutenant governor of the new Canadian province, arrived Sept. 3. After this commissions were appointed on behalf of the British government and the inhabitants of Manitoba to meet and the difficulties existing and to arrive at an equitable adjustment of affairs in the province. In this conference Bishop Taché participated, representing the people of the province. At the time he was attending the ecumenical council sitting in Rome, and came home to attend to his duties in this connection in response to a telegram from the British government. He always had the great influence with the people. From the fact that he declines to act as a mediator in the present crisis, it is surmised that he did not consider himself well treated in connection with the previous negotiations. What was known as the Manitoba act was passed by parliament this same year. By this act many of the privileges asked by the rebels were granted to the inhabitants of the country, and they have since lived under a representative form of government. The population of all Manitoba at that time was about 14,000, the proportion of whites to half-breeds being about one to seven or eight. An agrarian feature of the Manitoba act is what has led to the present difficulty. As intimated above, the titles of half-breeds to their lands were not very distinct, and many of the people were doubtless squatters. By the Manitoba act there were 1,400,000 acres of land set apart for half-breed infants; subsequent grants were made of land and scrip to the half-breed heads of families. Afterwards came an order dividing up the 1,400,000 of land, so as to grant to each half-breed child born prior to July 1, 1870, a parcel of 240 acres free.

APPORTIONING THE LANDS.

There were many difficulties met with in apportioning out land. The tracts possessed by the French half-breeds along the crooked rivers of Canada were in most cases long parallelograms, with a narrow river frontage and extending back inland. These the dominion surveyors were obliged to cut up and divide up in a manner that seemed utterly reckless to the poor half-breeds, and there were many protests and threats. Often there had been delays and more or less dissatisfaction from the beginning. On the other hand the law of apportionment was appreciated to such an extent that half-breed infants came to be at a premium, and it is even said that children were transferred from one family to another in order to obtain land. Next, lands were placed in chancery until the children should have come of age, with the special stipulation that they should be considered to have attained their majority at eighteen. In many cases, however, the money realized by the sale of lands was not placed in the care of the court, but orders were even given that the money should be given to the care of parish priests or the heads of families. Lands were also taken out of chancery and sold out rapidly, and land sharks were about making all they could by taking advantage of the peculiar feature of the infant provision. The half breeds themselves were an easy going people, and the lands and scrip granted to heads of families were in many cases squandered. Doubtless there were numerous abuses of this kind, but the law was generally acceptable to the half-breeds of Manitoba, and they took full advantage of it. Now, beyond the confines of Manitoba, in the Northwest Territory, lay a few half-breed sections, for the inhabitants of which no provision was made in the Manitoba act. As a matter of fact, the inhabitants of these places did not demand an apportionment of land at the time. The St. Laurent district, the seat of the present uprising, was among these sections.

THE AGITATION AT ST. LAURENT.

About ten years ago, however, the settlers of this district began to wake up to the fact that they should receive some consideration, and asked to be placed on the same footing with regard to homesteads and lands as the half-breeds of Manitoba. Later dominion surveyors were sent into the country to lay out the lands. Here the same difficulty was met as in the Red and Assiniboine river districts. The half-breeds, according to their French custom, had laid out their farms in parallelograms along the banks of the Saskatchewan and its branches, and the surveyors were of course compelled to destroy this arrangement. The people earnestly protested. They also renewed their claims for grants of 240 acres per capita, and from that time to this the agitation has been kept up. Various complications have arisen in the meantime, and complaints have been made of delays and arbitrary acts on the part of the government. Riel was again called upon for counsel and advice. He was visited in Montana, where he has been living, by a deputation of the half-breeds, and in response to their appeal went into the St. Laurent country. The half-breeds, in the meantime, had laid their grievances before the dominion parliament at Ottawa. Last September they held a meeting at St. Laurent, at which they adopted a bill of rights, of which the following is the substance:

First, the subdivision into provinces of the Northwest territories; second, the half-breeds to receive the same grants and other advantages as the Manitoba half-breeds; third, patents to be issued at once to the colonists in possession; fourth, the sale of half a million acres of dominion lands, the proceeds to be applied to the establishment in the half-breed settlements of schools, hospitals and such-like institutions, and to the equipment of the poorer half-breeds with seed grain and implements; fifth, the reservation of 100 townships of swamp land for distribution among the children of half-breeds during the next 120 years; sixth, a grant of at least $1,000 for the maintenance of an institution to be conducted by the nuns in each half-breed settlement; and seventh, better provision for the support of the Indians.

The last item, it is said, was inserted by Riel in order to please Poundmaker, an Indian chief who has made common cause with the half-breeds. The bill of rights apparently asks for a good deal more than the rebels have any idea of obtaining, but it is said that Monsignor Grandin, the Roman Catholic bishop of that region, and most of the English-speaking settlers are in favor of it. Since Riel's presence in the Saskatchewan country he has been actively at the head of the movement for rights, and under his leadership the forces have organized and the present rebellion has been engineered. The events of the conflict are still fresh in the memory of all.

THE PRESENT REBELLION.

The rebellion war started in the early part of last week. At first the dominion government professed to consider the insurrection as of no importance, but the cutting of the telegraph lines and the threatening uprising of the Indians all through the Saskatchawan territory as well as the imminent danger in which the Canadian Pacific railroad is placed has thoroughly aroused them, and troops are being rapidly hurried to the front by special trains as fast as they can be prepared to take the field. The exact strength of Riel's forces is not known. It is said to be composed of 500 to 1,500 men, armed with Remington and Winchester rifles, and Gen. Middleton who is to command the government troops declines to advance to the front with less than 1,500 men. The first troops left Winnipeg for the scene of the rebellion on Thursday of last week. They comprised six companies of the Nineteenth battalion, in all 270 men; to these are to be added the regular mounted police already on the ground, and several military companies organized by the settlers residing in the section where the rebellion is in progress. The troops, however, are at Qu'Appelle, waiting for reinforcements. The first regular battle between the rebels and the police took place last Thursday afternoon. Ten civilians of Prince Albert and two policemen were killed and four civilians and seven constables wounded. The rebel loss was fifteen killed. A second fight at Duck lake, on Friday, resulted in the killing and wounding of thirteen policemen and volunteers and the death of forty rebels. Fort Carleton was also destroyed on the 27th by Col. Irvine, of the police force, to prevent its falling into the hands of the rebels. Volunteers are being called for by the government, and are responding in large numbers. As fast as equipped they are being pushed to the front, and 500 men at least will be ready to leave Winnipeg for the scene of war in a few days.

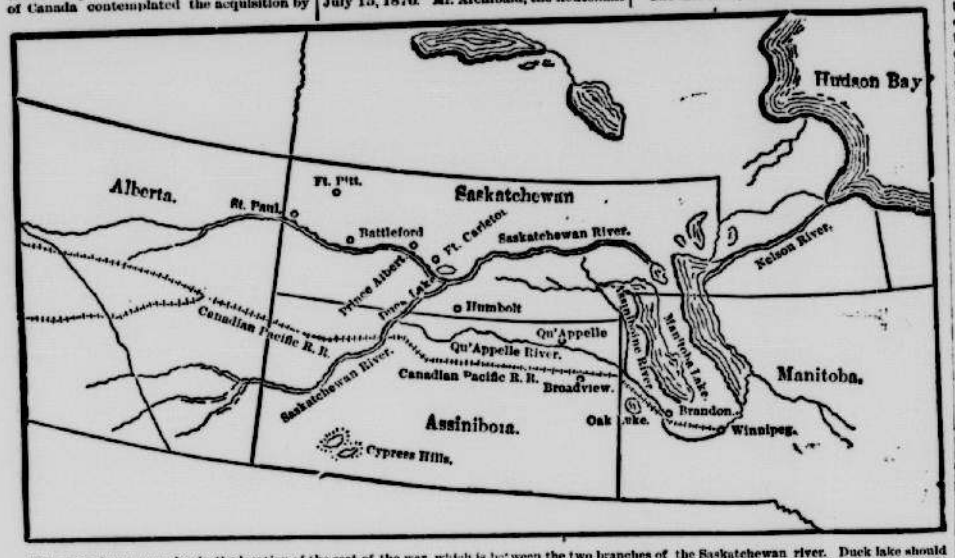
DETAILS OF THE FIGHT.

A Battleford dispatch received to-day says: "A scout just arrived gives particulars of the engagement at Duck lake, Thursday, between police and volunteers with the rebels. The half-breeds greatly outnumbered the soldiers, there being only seventy-five of the latter, who were on their way to Duck Lake, and were met by a flag of truce, and while a parley was going on the rebels opened fire from positions on both sides of the trail. An exciting battle followed, in which at least forty rebels were killed, besides which as many more were wounded, and four taken prisoners. The cannon did good service in intimidating the enemy, and if it had not been for that circumstance the loss of life would have been much greater among the police and volunteers.

THE INDIANS RISING.

A rebel emissary, who has been traveling around amongst the Indian reserves on the Saskatchewan, inciting a rising, has been arrested, and is now in custody at Fort Pitt. News has been received of a concentration of Crees at Poundmaker's reserve, and it is feared that Indians are now about starting on the war path. A delegation is on its way to Battleford to make demands.

The police have decided to abandon Battleford, Duck Lake and Carlton as posts, and concentrate their forces at Prince Albert. Riel's forces have been greatly augmented. He has 1,500 half-breeds, and is being joined by Chief Beardy. Indians are rising in many places, and it is believed it will be general.



This map shows very clearly the location of the seat of the war, which is between the two branches of the Saskatchewan river. Duck lake should be represented within the forks, instead of above them. Qu'Appelle is on the Canadian Pacific railroad, and is the point from which the stage route runs into the Saskatchewan country. It is more commonly known as Regina, but in form or years took the name Qa'Appelle, from the fort of that name, on the river. Regina is not represented on the map. It is further west than Fort Qu'Appelle.

THE POWER OF DYNAMITE.

It Is Greatly Overestimated and Soon To Be Superseded as an Explosive.

Dynamite in its simplest form closely resembles moist brown sugar and is nitro-glycerine absorbed in any inert base. It is not yet twenty years old, having been first offered for sale in June, 1867. In the form in which it is licensed, dynamite must consist of 75 per cent. of nitro-glycerine and 25 per cent. of an infusorial earth known as *kieselguhr*.

Of dynamite, properly so called, there are only two kinds, distinguished as dynamite No. 1 and No. 2. No. 1 is composed of 75 per cent. of nitro-glycerine and 25 per cent. of the infusorial earth *kieselguhr*; No. 2 of 18 per cent. nitro-glycerine and 82 per cent. of a pulverized preparation composed of nitrate of potash, charcoal, and paraffine; a mixture introduced to replace gun-powder in coal-working where dynamite No. 1 was too powerful.

Nitro-glycerine is a very pale yellow liquid, about half as heavy again as water. It is simply a cold mixture of one part of nitric acid and three parts of sulphuric acid. It has no smell, but a sweet aromatic taste, and, though it is not in a strict sense poisonous, yet a single drop placed on the tongue will almost immediately produce a violent headache; even the handling it, before the dynamite cartridges were in 1870 wrapped in parchment, would do the same. The "dynamite headache" is a disorder very well known in the trade.

The discovery of dynamite was not due, as has been generally supposed, to accident, but to direct experiment. The first made consisted of charcoal and nitro-glycerine, and, before the porous silica known as *kieselguhr* was finally adopted, numerous trials were made of various other absorpents, such as porous terra cotta, sawdust, and ordinary and nitrated paper soaked in the liquid explosive and rolled into cartridges. During the siege of Paris, when the *kieselguhr* ran short, the French engineers found the best substitute to be in the ashes of Bogbead coal, and next to that in pounded sugar.

The hours of the supremacy of dynamite are numbered. The explosive of the future is undoubtedly gelatine, the latest invention of Mr. Alfred Nobel, of Edinburg. Already on the continent the manufacture of this new agent has assumed important dimensions. Many of the later operations of the St. Gothard tunnel were carried out with pure blasting gelatine, and in Austria, the richest of all the European countries in mines except Great Britain, the factories where dynamite was formerly made are now given over to its manufacture. It is simply dynamite (a *base actif*) containing 93 per cent of nitro-glycerine, with a base of 7 per cent of collodion wool, that is itself an explosive in place of the inert *kieselguhr*. As a blasting agent it is more homogeneous than dynamite, and on account of its elasticity is less sensible to outward impressions, while in handling or cutting the cartridges there is no loss of the material, as sometimes occurs with dynamite. Its further advantages are that the gases after explosion are lighter and thinner and leave no dust, developing at the same time considerable more power. Taking the power of dynamite at 1,000 and nitro-glycerine at 1,411, blasting gelatine is represented by the figures 1,555, in addition to which superiority it is capable, unlike dynamite, of retaining its nitro-glycerine when brought into contact with water.

The destructive power of dynamite, which, contrary to the common opinion, does not act downward, but equally in all directions, and with the greatest violence where there is the greatest resistance, has been greatly exaggerated. Although it has from five to seven times the explosive power of gunpowder, it is comparatively trifling in its effects at even short distances. The dynamiter, with all his daring and cunning, has, after all, succeeded in doing us no more damage than gas has often done before. It would be better for him, if he desires to continue his warfare, to return to his ancient ally, gunpowder, which above ground is a much more noisy and demoralizing agent.

Dynamiters can not by any means at their disposal lay a whole city in ruins—not even a street. They may injure special buildings, and that is the most they can do. The dynamite employed for these purposes is, in the majority of cases, of the kind known as lignin-dynamite, a wholly unlicensed explosive, composed of sawdust and nitro-glycerine, and in its effects considerably weaker than that in common use. —*Cornhill Magazine.*

Old Eli Bab.

Old Eli Bab was the noted sot of the Dwyer Ford neighborhood. He was a kind hearted man, but children were taught to shun him. The home of the wretched man, if it could be called a home, was the picture of misery. His wife was broken-hearted and his children were miserable.

"Old Bab's in town," said a man, entering a saloon and addressing a party of idlers.

"Then look out for trouble," some one replied. "I'd rather know that the seven years' itch was coming."

Bab came in, leading or rather dragging after him, a little boy. The child was begging him to go home.

"Hello, fellers," said Bab. "Want a drink?"

The party of idlers promptly arose and approached the bar.

"Pa, please come on," implored the child.

"Oh, dry up, won't you! Fellers what'll you have? Sold a cow this morning and am flush."

Taking from his pocket a shoe, nearly worn out, he struck the bar with it.

"Wife told me to have this thing fixed, as though a man's got money to throw away."

The boy pulled at his sleeve.

"Now, I want you to stop that. I've stood about as much of your foolishness as I'm going to."

The men drank. "Fill 'em up again," said Bab, striking the bar with the shoe. No one objected. The men whom he had joined would have drunk with him all day. They seemed to have no other business.

"Had you in the 'boose the last time you were in town, didn't they, eh?" asked Nat Boles.

"Yes, but that's none of your look out. I generally pay for my whisky which is more than you can say and tell the truth."

"I didn't mean any harm by it. You are getting to be such a crank that nobody can say a word to you."

"That's all right. You sit around here and guzzle every day, but if I happen to come to town once in a while and get a little off, you go around singing it."

"I don't do any such a thing. I merely spoke about it just now."

"Oh, I heard of you. Fine joke for you. Why don't you drink your whisky?"

"Reckon I want to drink with a man that talks to me as you do?"

"Yes you'd drink with the devil."

"I'll just show you."

Taking up the glass, he made a motion as though he would throw the whisky on the floor, but his appetite being stronger than his resentment, he drank it and said:

"I don't want to have any trouble with you, Eli. We are too good friends for that."

They sat down around the stove, for the weather was intensely cold. There is no place on earth more dreary than a saloon in a small town, but men stay there. Yes, for man will stay anywhere. When evening came, Eli was beastly drunk. He had thrown away the shoe, but the boy recovered it, and to keep from offending his father by the sight of it, carried it under his coat.

"We'll go home now," he said, taking hold of the boy's shoulder.

"It's awful cold for you to attempt to walk; I'd stay in town, Eli," said a man who looked with pity upon the child.

"We don't have to walk," replied the boy. "Our horse is at the stable."

"No, my little fellow, your horse is not there. Your father sold the horse when he slipped away from you before dinner time."

The child burst into tears. His father declared that having spent all his money, and that as he could not get whisky without it, he wouldn't stay in the infernal town. He vowed that everybody was trying to rob him, a belated but not altogether untrue reflection. "Come on," said he, "we don't care for the snow, do we, Tom?"

"No, sir."

"But if you want to stay, we'll stay."

The child, looking at him reproachfully yet affectionately, replied, "I wouldn't stay here if I knew we'd freeze to death by going out in the snow."

"All right, Macoovey. Come on. Drunker than an owl. Full as a goose, Tom."

"Yes, I know."

"What'll the old lady say?"

"She won't say anything, but you know she'll cry."

"Pretty good woman, Tom. Your mother, ain't she?"

"Yes, sir."

"That's what I thought. Man never has but one mother, Tom. Never heard of a man with two mothers, did you?"

"No, sir."

"That's what I thought. When a man tells you that he has two mothers, call him a liar. He may have two sisters and a front yard full of brothers, but he won't have but one mother."

They were struggling along a lane. The child's teeth chattered. "Can't go any further to-night, Tom," said the father, stopping in a fence corner. "Just so tired I can't go any further. You go home and tell the folks not to be uneasy. I'm all right. Going Tom?"

"No, sir."

* * * * * * * *

Early next morning, a traveler dismounted to examine something he saw in a fence corner. "I will never forget that sight," said he in speaking of it. "The boy had his arms around the father's purple neck, and had pressed his cheek close to the rough face of the drunkard. Both were dead, and on the dead man's breast, there lay a little worn-out shoe."—*Arkansas Traveler.*

A New Malady.

"Psychopathy" is a malady which has only recently come to the notice of the doctors. For the enlightenment of the multitude it is explained that a psychopath is an individual devoid of all moral notions who at the same time thinks logically, distinguishes good from evil, and acts according to reason so far as his own interests are concerned. Aside from himself no thing is sacred to him. The *Pall Mall Gazette* suggests that psychopathy is an abnormal development of egotism, and that when a fully fledged psychopath is discovered he should be immediately hanged.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*