

Dep. Col.
Thesis

B413

DEPOSITORY
COLLECTION
NOT TO BE
TAKEN

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

FROM EARLIEST TIMES TO 1907

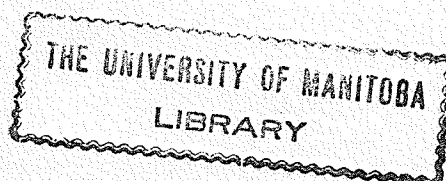
by

MARGARET JANE BELL, B.A. (MANITOBA)

Being a thesis submitted to the Department
of History of the University of Manitoba, in
partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of Master of Arts.

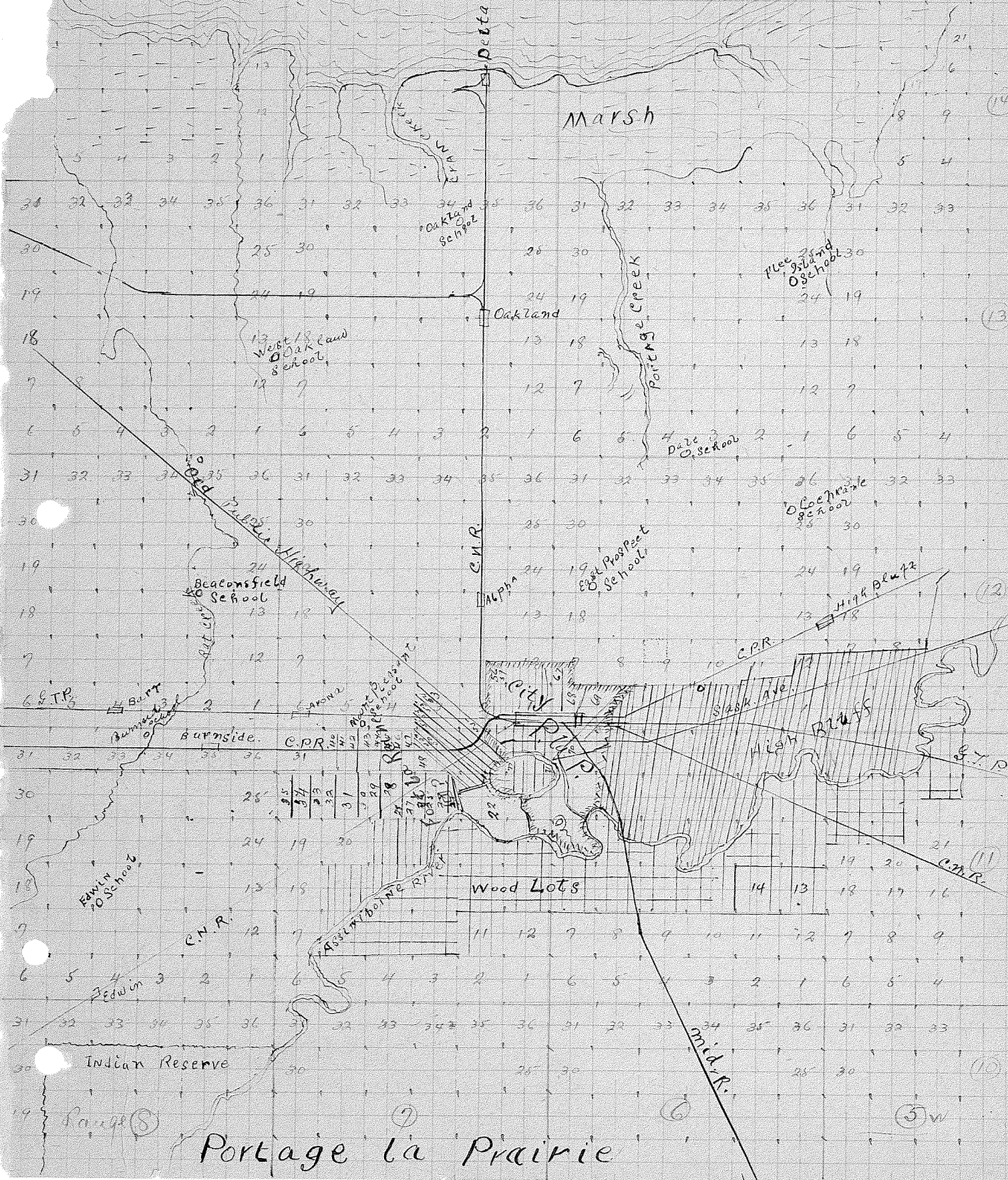
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

April 1926



N

Lake Manitoba



PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

- | | | |
|---------|------|-----------------------------|
| Chapter | I. | Before the Plough |
| Chapter | II. | The Plough and the Church |
| Chapter | III. | Administrative Difficulties |
| Chapter | IV. | The Riel Insurrection |
| Chapter | V. | The Evolution of the City |
-

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

The modern tourist travelling westward on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, across the Dominion of Canada, finds himself really launched into the prairies as he leaves Winnipeg. An hour from Winnipeg, he sees to the North, great prairie stretches; to the South, a narrow stretch of arable land, bounded at the horizon by woods. He knows that the Assiniboine River is taking its leisurely way, behind that irregular strip of timber, to join the Red River. Another half hour and he is at Portage La Prairie - A city, quaintly named; the smallest of the three Manitoba cities.

The tourist knows that the Portage plains are famous for "Manitoba one-hard wheat". Does he appreciate all that has gone before those grain fields were realized? He sees a group of Indians, but here leave the sight-seeing tourist and trace the story of this romantic spot.

Some few of the Indian families seen on the streets of Portage La Prairie to-day are the descendants of the Indians who first possessed the city site and its magnificent plain.

When did the white man first enter this area? It is known that from 1492, he made a steady encroachment inland on the American continent, and that by the 17th century Radisson and Groseillers had traversed the Northern section of the great central plain. Who knows but that they were the first to portage from the Assiniboine River to the Northern Lakes? The 18th century ushers in authentic records of interesting meetings between the two races on the Manitoba Prairies.

The earliest record of a journey up the Assiniboine river is found in the journal of the French explorer and trader Sieur Gautier Verennes de la Verandrye. In September 1738 Verendrye left his Fort Maurepas, at the mouth of the Winnipeg River, crossed Lake Winnipeg to Red River, and ascended to the

"Fork of the Assiniboilles". Here he found ten Cree huts and two war chiefs. These Cree warriors tried to persuade him not to continue his proposed westerly journey up the Assiniboine River. They declared that the Assiniboines were people without intelligence who did not know how to hunt beaver, and that he would only return with empty canoes. However, Verandrye left the Forks on September 26th, 1738, and the following extracts from his journals prove that Portage La Prairie was the next place in his travels, to be used as head quarters for trade and further explorations. - (1) "On the evening of October 2nd, the Indians notified me that I could not ascend the river further, and that my canoes could only pass the woods if all the people should be at the Portage which goes to the Lake of the Prairies, for this is the road of the Assiniboines in going to the English. Being here I would stop everyone, and if I wanted to go to the Mandans, I was close to the road to them. I consulted what we should do, believing that we were sixty leagues from the "Forks" by water and thirty-five or forty by land taking the prairies. All present seeing that we could not pass further, and that we ran great risk of damaging our canoes felt that it was more suitable to remain in a place where there was plenty and which was on the road to the English. I resolved on the morning of October the third to select an advantageous place to build a fort, which I made them begin immediately."

(2) "My fourth fort in Fort de la Reine on the north bank of the Assiniboine River" - - - "from Fort de la Reine there is a nine mile portage leading to Lac de Prairies".

This was the fort hastily built between October 3rd and October 15th for the express purpose of intercepting Indians on their way to trade furs

with the English at Hudson Bay - The fact that the fort was built at the portage between the river and the Northern lake proves that the site was somewhere in the vicinity of the present city of Portage la Prairie, but just exactly where no one knows - Even as early as 1797 the site was uncertain, according to the journal of John McDonell an officer in the North-West Co. who was in charge of a post on the Qu'Appelle river in 1794, and who often journeyed along the Assiniboine River - Why not believe that "the advantageous place" - - - (where there was plenty) selected by Verendrye was on the height of land not far from the "Old Fort" of the Hudson Bay Company? This would take him well past the heavy timber and low lying lake and marsh land that is North of the Assiniboine east of this point. It would seem that such a point overlooking the prairies, and so close to the sturgeon supply in the lake to the east, not to mention the wild pigeon etc. was almost certain to be selected.

Verendrye's journal records that he was absent from the locality of the fort from October 3rd to October 18th, and that on his return the buildings were completed. From Fort de la Reine, Verendrye journeyed to the Missouri country returning February 11th, 1739. In 1740 he went to Montreal with furs and returned the next year. -In 1742 his sons left la Reine, going west to the Rockies - ; 1746 saw his chain of forts abandoned, when he was recalled to Montreal. However, Francois, son of Verendrye returned in 1747 and repaired them including Fort de la Reine.

Legardeur de St. Pierre succeeded Verendrye in the west and was at Fort la Reine in 1751 - 53.

(1) He spent most of the winter 1751-52 at La Reine - Here towards the end of February 1752 he had with him at the fort five men while

(1) Park man from Journals of Legardeur de Saint Pierre.

some fourteen others were out in search of food. Suddenly as he sat in his chamber, he saw the fort full of armed Assiniboinas, extremely noisy and insolent. He tried in vain to quiet them, and they presently broke into the guard house and seized the arms. A massacre would have followed, had not Saint Pierre resorted to an effective expedient. He knocked out the heads of two barrels of gunpowder, snatched a firebrand, and told the yelping crowd that he would blow up them and himself together. At this they all rushed in fright out of the gate, while Saint Pierre ran after them and bolted it fast. There was great anxiety for the hunters, but they all came back in the evening, without having met the enemy. The men however were so terrified by the adventure that Saint Pierre was compelled to abandon the fort, after recommending it to the care of another band of Assiniboinas, who had professed great friendship. (1) Four days after he was gone they burned it to the ground. Saint Pierre came to the conclusion that further discovery was impossible, because the English of Hudson Bay had stirred up the Western tribes to oppose it. He returned to Quebec in 1753.

The prairies were left to the Indians while England and France fought their rival claims to a conclusion in 1759.

If the Indians gave the matter thought at all, they must have decided that the white men were such like themselves, when into the northern prairies came not only white men speaking different languages, but white men speaking the same language and yet competing to the point of the sword for trade.

Before a score of years had passed after the destruction of Fort de la Reine, no less than three rival posts were located in that vicinity, The Nor-West trading company, the Hudson Bay Company and a private concern Lavolette and company. The new competition was principally between

(1) Journal of Saint Pierre in Dugas "Reaching the mouth of the Nipik (Wpg) River I was grieved to learn from the Crees that 4 days after my departure from Fort La Reine the Indians had burned it down."

Canadian and English interests and Portage La Prairie saw something of that struggle.

Just when the Canadians represented by the North West Trading Company, first established a post at Portage la Prairie is uncertain; The exact location of the fort is also uncertain - Daniel Harmon in the employ of the company records in his diary Thursday, May 13, 1805 - (1) (June 1) (Arrived at Portage la Prairie on his way from Souris) "Here the Nor West Company have a miserable fort, the local situation of which is beautiful beyond anything that I have seen in this part of the world. Opposite the fort is a plain sixty miles long, one to ten miles broad, in the whole extent of which not the least rise of ground is visible. To this place the natives resort every spring to take and dry sturgeon."

The post was in charge of one William McKay in 1795-4. And in 1799 Alexander Henry (Jr.) while in winter quarters at Riviere Terre Blanche (White Mud) writes in his Journal - " In fall of 1799 I performed a short journey alone on horseback to Portage la Prairie one of our establishments on the Assiniboine" - - - "My route lay directly across an open plain fifteen or twenty miles. " Again in April 1800 - "The Terre Blanche having been clear of ice for sometime, I embarked in my canoe for Portage la Prairie". Henry reported for the season 1799-80 a clear profit of \$700 in spite of the opposition of the "T" Association. From 1799 to 1807 Henry supervised the trade in the "Lower Red River Department of the Nor. West Company" - and Portage la Prairie was one post in his department. Regularly Henry despatched supplies to the Portage post and received returns from it. In December 1800 letters from Portage to Henry report that the people there were starving. Again May 19, 1801 - "No News from Assiniboine River except

(1) Journals of Harmon

that they are starving at Portage la Prairie; and exist only on esqubois, a root about the thickness and length of a finger, which may be termed the wild potatoe or pomme de terre of this country. It has a thin skin of a yellowish color, the inside perfectly white, and when boiled is tolerably good eating". Henry set out for Portage la Prairie May 22, and found it true that all were actually starving.

The next year May 5, 1802, a small canoe arrived from Portage bringing to Henry nearly a bushel of potatoes for seed. In 1802-03 the chief trader found that the Portage post was putting up pemican that was unfit for use, and further that the rival Canadian company, the X. Y. Co. was intercepting the trade. However in 1804-05 the returns from Portage were most creditable. They showed Beaver 116, Martin 532, Muskrats 10,865 and 3000 lbs. of meat besides small packets of other kinds.

Henry made a tour to the Mandan territory in 1806 - On his return in July arrived at Portage and recorded, "Here I found an Indian sent by Mr. Chaboillez from Riviere la Souris to inform me of his arrival at that place from Fort Dauphin - - - I hear of nothing but famine throughout the country. The Indians of this establishment have been away since June 1st and have made no dried provisions whatever. They can scarcely find food for their families. Their principal resource is wild fowl from Lake Manitoba". - - - - - "At Portage la Prairie we have an excellent garden, well stocked with potatoes, carrots, corn, onions, parsnips, beets, turnips. etc. all in forwardness and good order. Cabbages and Melon do not turn out so well as at Pembian River - the soil here is too dry and sandy".

Trading returns from Portage la Prairie for 1806 - 07 were unsuccessful. The main cause of this was an unfortunate quarrel which took place last spring, when some were killed and others wounded, among

them one of our principal men, whose skull was split open with an ax. He lived fifteen days in the warm month of June. - - - - - The loss of this man may be said to have given the death blow to Portage la Prairie.

In August 1807 Henry gave up Portage la Prairie to be in the "Upper Red River Department" of the North West Company.

The British fur trading interests were represented in Canada by the Hudson Bay Company. From 1670 this company had carried on trade in British territories in Northern Canada, but in the 17th and early 18th centuries the company did not go into the interior. The Indians made their annual journey north to the Hudson Bay and traded beaver skins or the equivalent token, for commodities. The Portage plains belonged to the area 'utilized but not occupied' by the Hudson Bay Company, and just as La Verendrye discovered the Portage to be a strategic point to intercept the Indians on their way to the English, so did the Canadian company, the North Westers. The Hudson Bay Company had a post at Portage la Prairie during the winter of 1793-4 with one, Linklater in charge, so that the North Westers had their rivals sharing the same locality. Just where these first H.B. posts were is uncertain - but both the Nor. Westers and H.B. Companies traded with the Indians in the Portage area and rivalry was keen.

The strife between the two companies was complicated with the grant of Assiniboia to Lord Selkirk by the Hudson's Bay Company, June 12, 1811. This grant included Portage and all the prairie radiating from it. It reads - - "All that tract of Land or Territory being within and formerly part of the aforesaid Lands and Territories of the said Governor and Company bounded by an imaginary line running as follows, that is to say beginning on the western shore of the Lake Winipic otherwise Winnipeg

at a point in fifty two degrees and thirty minutes North latitude and thence running due west to Lake Winipigoos, then in a Southerly direction through the said lake so as to strike its Western shore in latitude fifty two degrees then due west to the place where the parallel of fifty two degrees North latitude intersects the Western branch of the Red River, otherwise called Assiniboyne River, then due South from that point of intersection to the height of land which separates the waters running into Hudson's Bay from those of Missouri and Mississippi.

"Both Companies were averse to this tremendous area being used for settlement. The North Westers saw their trade ruined if Selkirk's venture prospered. Furs could not be made in large quantities for their northern brigades if the prairies were cultivated. The strife came to a climax at Seven Oaks; Portage felt a ripple of the conflict as is proved by extracts from the journals of North Westers and Hudson Bay men.

From the diary of John Macleod, Sr. original chief factor of the Hudson Bay Co. - - - "On 22nd of September 1813 I left the forks of the Red River and arrived at Portage la Prairie about the beginning of October, where I was left by Mr. Fidler with five men with heavy families. I immediately began to build and got under cover toward the latter end of the same month.

In the course of the winter some of the principal Indians appertaining to this post informed me that they were advised by "Yellowhead" i.e., Alexander Macdonald of the North West Company to make very heavy demands on the colonists for their land or to drive them away from it".
- - - - - In the spring I turned out 55 packs, principally rats".

Again from the journal of Alexander Macdonell -

"About the 16th of June (1816) I arrived at Portage des Prairies and my craft the day after - Mr. Siveright had arrived on the 9th

and was equally relieved by our junction, having been in constant fear of being attacked and pillaged of his returns, by parties from below - - - - The day after our arrival at Portage des Prairies it was thought expedient to use the customary precaution of unloading and examining both provisions and furs, - - - - - determined to wait patiently as long as possible for the arrival of some of the partners - - - - - as soon as the fur and provisions were dried and assorted, I caused both to be piled in a square around our encampment, which formed a kind of breast work, and a tolerable shelter against small arms; so prepared for defense - - - - bartered some peltries with the Indians, explained causes of disturbances and broils in Red River - - - - still no news from the east - - - anxiety induced me on the evening of the 17th of June to order Cuthbert Grant, Antoine Hooe, and Michael Bourcassa to take smart lads and horses, and provisions and carts and a canoe and go twelve miles or so below the colony at Red River. - - - - - 18th of June a party under Grant of about fifty men and boys started off".

It is probably well to note in passing, that while Alexander Macdonell thus reports himself in his diary, one must remember that he was the aggressive North West partner, who was organizing "the storm to the Northward". The "anxiety" that Macdonell records, is anxiety regarding the successful culmination of his plans, to destroy the Selkirk settlement at Red River. It is on record too, that, anxiety turned to mirth, when the successes at Seven Oaks were told to him.

(Coltman's Report 1819)

In 1821 the rivalry between the trading companies was at an end, and the Selkirk settlers were still at Red River.

From the date of the coalition until 1832 there is no mention in Hudson Bay minutes of the Portage post. After the coalition there was no need of intercepting the Indian trade with a rival company. Moreover

the great value of the Portage plains to the trader, had been the supply of buffalo meat for pemican, and a post was not necessary for a buffalo hunt. The Rt. Hon. Edward Ellice before the Select Committee made a statement about the Southern territory of the Hudson Bay, which bears out the argument - - In describing the value of the southern district, he said, "there are buffaloes and some wolves; no very valuable fur-bearing animals - - - - The value is in the supply of meat". (1)

When the Hudson Bay Monopoly was endangered by the increasing American trade in the North West, the Company made an effort to combat this by erecting new posts and meeting the Indians on their own grounds. Among these new or revised posts was the one at Portage la Prairie. On July 9, 1832, the Council of the Northern Department of Rupert's Land met at Norway House. At this meeting the Hudson Bay Company resolved to build a new post at Portage la Prairie, and to place there, John R. McKay as post-master, and with him four men. The post was to collect leather and buffalo robes in as large quantities as possible. The Minutes of the Department show that in 1833 George Setter was postmaster with four men; in 1835 Hector Mackenzie, clerk was in charge with two men. In 1836 George Setter was again at the 'New Post' but was allowed to return 1837 with £60 gratuity. In the years 1838 - 39 - 40 - 41, no mention is made of the post in the Minutes of the Northern Council.

One is inclined to believe that the post was not a very lucrative one, hence the reduction in staff and seeming abandonment.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, then, Portage, had not advanced beyond the mere site of an indifferent trading post - it had been included in Selkirk's grant of Assiniboia in 1811, but when

(1) Report of Select Committee (6020-6029) Page 349.

in 1854 that grant reverted to the Hudson Bay Company, and the new district of Assinibola was created, Portage was not included in the fifty mile radius from Fort Garry. Portage la Prairie had still to find her vantage ground.

Chapter II

THE PLOUGH AND THE CHURCH

During the fur trade period of the French Regime, the priest accompanied the trader into the Indian territory. Laverendrye in his memoir, "We possess him today to the great satisfaction of everybody"; but no date is on this document. This missionary so referred to is the first who ever reached and resided at Fort la Reine. Father Coquart accompanied La Verendrye to Michillimackinac in 1741. Documents show that he was at Michillimackinac in 1742 and as late as July 27, 1743. Father Coquart evidently left Michillimackinac for Fort la Reine in August 1743; he stayed eight or nine months at that fort. His place at Fort la Reine was taken by Father Jean Baptiste de la Morinie in 1750. This priest was so discouraged with the little good that he could do, that he left la Reine on June 22, 1751. Father Morinie was the last Roman Catholic Missionary in the west for sixty-five years.

Evidently a century passed before any christian effort was made with the Indians at Portage la Prairie. This effort was made simultaneously with the birth of Agriculture, the great industry of the Portage Plains. The cherished theory of Archdeacon Cochrane was, "Christianity and farming for the Indian".

Archdeacon Cochrane had reached the Red River in 1825, and for a quarter of a century ministered to the white-settlers and Indians in that vicinity. In the spring of 1851, he journeyed west along the Assiniboine and decided upon a new field of labor. The new field was Portage la Prairie. Here was a large Indian population to be converted to christianity and to farming. Moreover it is feasible to credit the Archdeacon with another motive, in founding the new settlement. The parent settlement at Red River

was growing; there was some discord between the settlers and the Council of Assinibolia; and the fertile prairies stretching north from the locality of the old fur-trading posts looked to be a solution to these difficulties.

But, be this surmise true or false, Archdeacon Cochrane did not go alone in 1853 to Portage la Prairie. Some fifteen families went from Red River, to improve their living conditions in the new settlement. This Migration was not carried on without opposition and difficulties.

In the first place the Hudson's Bay governor, Sir George Simpson, opposed the Archdeacon's proposal to establish the new settlement; however, the governor and his committee, "permitted it, but did not sanction it". (1) This extract from a letter, from Rev. Mr. Taylor to Rev. G. O. Corbett gives some light on, "permitting but not sanctioning".

"Sir George Simpson expressed his displeasure at Archdeacon Cochrane's proceedings at Portage la Prairie, and required that he withdraw to the place he left vacant; to which the Archdeacon replied, "I wonder Sir George Simpson does not know me better; he thought to send me from the Grand Rapids, then to put me out of the Indian Settlement; and does he think I am going to quit the Portage? I am surprised that he has not learned better by this time."

The principal objection raised by the Governor and Council of Assinibolia was that, this settlement, so far from the seat of government would be hard to manage. If offences were committed there was no constable within reach. (2) "There were no means of laying hold of the offenders". These fears, of the Council, were realized after Archdeacon Cochrane left his Portage settlement to its own devices.

(1) Report of Select Committee 1857

(2) Sir Geo. Simpson.

A second difficulty that the Archdeacon had to face was the actual procuring of the land for himself, his Mission, and his christian, farmer settlers. With this difficulty he proceeded more adroitly. In all probability he knew that in 1817 Chief Blue Robe had sold to Lord Selkirk the territory from Fort Garry to Musk Hat River beyond Portage la Prairie, to the depth of two miles from the river front, for the consideration of an annual payment of one hundred pounds of tobacco, to be paid October tenth each year; one half to the Saulteaux at Fort Garry, the other to the Cree chief at Portage la Prairie. Following Selkirk's example Cochrane proceeded to make business negotiations for this land that lay outside the jurisdiction of the Council of Assinibois.

He purchased from Chief Pa - Kwah - Ki - Kun, the point of land on which the city of Portage la Prairie now stands. The old chief also bequeathed to the settlers along the 'Slough Road', the island, for the consideration that every man give him a bushel of wheat yearly as long as the chief should live (1).

The names of the first St. Mary's congregation are of those families who moved to the Portage settlement with Archdeacon Cochrane. One notes among them scions of familiar Selkirk Settler families. Frederick Bird, William Garrioch, John Hodgson, Richard Favel, John Anderson Sr. Thomas Anderson Sr., Peter Whiteford, John Spence, Henry House, John Garrioch, Baptiste Demarais, Charles Demarais, John Inkster, Simon Whiteford, Peter Garrioch, William Sutherland, William Gaddy, Charlotte Spence, Gavin Garrioch, James Whitford, Henry House, Jr., Magnus House, Robert Inkster, James Whitford Magnus Whitford, Henry Anderson, William Horn, David Cusitar, John Dougal McKay, William McKay, Peter Henderson, Joseph Turner, Robert Gunn, David Bow,

(1) Garrioch

Thomas Bow, Allen McIvor, John James Setter, William Hodgson, Alexander Gaddy, James Frank Malcolm Cummings, Charles Cummings, Joseph House, Henry House St., Philip Whiteford, Francis Whitford, James Jonas, Benjamin McKenzie, David Anderson, John Whitford, John Anderson, Jr.

Note too that the names on this roll are masculine.

The first Anglican service was held in John Anderson's house, "which stood on the North bank (1) of Crescent Lake where Fourth Street S.E. strikes the lake". The house was log, twenty feet square. The seats were plank laid across blocks, an eighteen inch aisle led to the table that served as pulpit and altar.

As soon as the settlers had their log houses erected, they set to work to build a church.

The building that they completed with their own hands was seventy feet long, by thirty feet wide and in height from ground to eaves fourteen feet. At the north end was a tower ten feet square and sixty feet high, finished with a spire surmounted by a cross. The walls of the church and tower were of hewn oak logs, clap-boarded and white washed. The roof was of unstained oak shingles. Within, the walls were axe-scored, and plastered with a mixture of clay and finely-chopped hay, and finished with a coat of white wash. The ceiling was panelled with basswood and unpainted.

Four Gothic windows on each side, and a larger one in the south side, lighted the church brightly. In place of a chancel ten feet was set apart by a white painted rail. Within this enclosure were two pulpits, eight feet high, one in each corner painted white. The communion table stood beneath the window in the centre, and on each side of it stood a chair made of birch and painted black. The pews were quite unique. Each family made its own and managed to get them alike - Two heavy oak pieces formed the ends which were finished off in seven curves. The seat was of

(1) Garrioch

poplar or basswood, as was also the kneeling board. All was unpainted - The settlers were called to worship in this building in 1855.

The first school sessions in the settlement were held in the home of the teacher, Mr. Peter Carrioch. The site was what is now the corner of Crescent Ave. and Elizabeth St. Some twenty-five children were enrolled - The equipment was primitive, but a good beginning was made in the rudiments.

After teaching one year in his own house Mr. Carrioch moved his classes to the completed school house, which stood one hundred and fifty yards east of where Row Street joins River Road. The building was log, forty feet long, twenty feet wide, nine feet high - The roof was thatched, the chinks in the logs plastered with clay. Three windows faced the River Road and underneath them and fastened to the wall, was a desk twenty-five feet long. A chimney in the centre of the west wall was the means of heating the building.

Mr. Carrioch taught School 'till 1856, for the princely salary of \$40 per annum.

Archdeacon Cochrane ministered not only to the settlers, but pushed on in his efforts with the Indians. At the west end of the settlement, about sixty-five steps from the present Indian School, he established a day school and held an afternoon Sunday service there. Mr. Malcolm Cummings had charge of the school, and taught not only reading, writing and arithmetic but religion. The enrolment was about thirty, and about the same number attended the Sunday services.

Thus for four years the little settlement busied itself in getting established - A livelihood was made from the little farms, ten acres or so, from hunting, trapping and trading, and no need was felt for legislation of any kind. Archdeacon Cochrane's word was law in the settlement and until 1857 his realm was undisturbed by conflict, either domestic or foreign.

CHAPTER III.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIFFICULTIES

Records of new and disturbing elements appear after 1857. These elements affected the progress of civilization at Portage la Prairie. 'The Nor-Wester' published a letter from John Garrioch, written July 30, 1860, that records an appeal against United States traders dispensing liquor among the Indians. On December 10, 1860, Mr. Garrioch again voiced a protest, this time against the destruction of timber. He wrote, "Let us have a steam boat, and a steam saw-mill at Lake Winnipeg, and a brick Kiln" -- Again in March 1862 Mr. Garrioch wrote that, "the Indians threaten to descend in a body and demand their lands at the Hudson Bay Company Post".

The 'Nor-Wester' to which Mr. Garrioch was a regular correspondent was distributed west to Portage la Prairie and east to the Atlantic Coast. This pioneer paper contributed to the under current of changes that disturbed the Portage Settlement. It advertised the Prairie Portage thus, "Level prairies, rich soil and herbage, but nearly destitute of trees, good grazing". In the issue of August 30, 1862 - "As a sign of the times we are glad to notice that a spirit of speculation has seized upon our neighbors at Portage la Prairie - A large number of lots of land between Poplar Point and the Portage have been taken up and houses built in anticipation of a Canadian emigration" - The Nor-Wester went on to advise them to offer the claims at a fair price, "because millions of acres of the finest soil in world can be had by merely squatting on them".

'The Canadian Emigration', had begun by 1862, for the issue referred to above, also contains the following item - "Mr. McLean the Canadian farmer who lately went to Portage to settle assures us he is pleased with the prospects. Though the season was advanced he sowed

grain and vegetables and has a promising crop. He thinks the place excellent for farming. Mr. McLean hails from Guelph, Ontario, full of hope with means and inclination to farm on a large scale". This the Nor-Wester remarks is a forerunner of a new era.

Mr. John McLean so chronicled in the Nor-Wester was the pioneer Ontario (Canadian) settler in Portage. He arrived at Fort Garry in the early summer of 1862 on the steamer "International". He looked about for farm land at Fort Garry but could not decide to purchase. He went west to the fertile prairies at Portage and immediately purchased seven and one-half chains facing on the slough from a French half breed Revere. The purchase price was \$375 in gold. He bought ten chains more from Peter Garrioch. These seventeen and one-half chains Mr. McLean farmed for nineteen years.

In the early fall of 1862 Mr. Kenneth Bain (McBain) arrived with his wife and seven children. He had been to the west in 1861, and decided to farm on the Portage prairies. The Bain family left Huron County, Ontario in June 1862, with a party of Hudson Bay men. They barely escaped the Minnesota Massacre, arrived at Kildonan in August, and in Portage la Prairie in October. Mr. Bain took land east of the present reformatory; he barely ploughed a furrow around his claim and established his title by possession.

From 1857 to 1862 the settlement underwent these changes in personnel. These changes, together with Indian troubles, and land disputes in the settlement account for petitions that appear in the Minutes of the Council of Assiniboia. In 1863 the Portagers petitioned, "to be taken into the Council of Assiniboia". May 4, 1864 - The Minutes present, "An application from the settlers at Portage la Prairie requesting to be 'annexed' to the Red River Settlement and included within the jurisdiction of the Municipal District." The Council, while declaring its sympathy with these petitions, did not deem it wise to include the Portage settlement in its

government -- "their military support was not sufficient to secure the government, the petitions required".

These petitions show that the settlement was disquieted and that the local government was not adequate - Archdeacon Cochrane, before his resignation from St. Mary's parish in 1864, had decided that a local government of some sort was necessary and the Council of Portage la Prairie was formed.

The Council evidently was incapable of handling the land case of Whiteford vs McEain (Eain) for this case was aired before the Council at Red River, and during the procedure of the case the following account was given of the organization of the Council of Portage la Prairie (1) "Our Councillors were nominated by Rev. Thomas Cochrane and elected by the public, without one contrary vote, and all in the presence of the Venerable Archdeacon Cochrane. The chairman, Mr. Fred A. Bird, was sworn in by the Rev. Thos. Cochrane, and afterwards the other members of the Council, by Mr. Fred Bird, as was also Mr. John James Setter, clerk of the court. The election of this Council was for a term of one year, commencing December 1863".

By 1867 the Council of Portage la Prairie was evidently distressed with existing conditions, for on March 7, 1867, there was presented to the Governor and Council of Assiniboia a petition from a number of residents at Portage la Prairie representing that the system of self-government which they had been trying to set up among themselves had not been successful, and praying, as a means of being relieved from the evils of the present state, that their settlement be brought within the jurisdiction and authority of Red River, or that Portage la Prairie be annexed to Red River. At the same time there was laid before the Council a 'Counter Petition' from about

(1) Nor-Wester February 1864

an equal number of Portagers, deprecating the immediate annexation as being premature, and praying the Council to postpone any final action. Action on these petitions was deferred from meeting to meeting of the Council of Assinibolia.

It is feasible to believe that the men who signed the counter petition referred to above listened to Thomas Spence when he arrived in Portage at the close of 1867. Spence had been at Red River and failing to get a following moved on to Portage, where the unsettled conditions allowed him an opening. He succeeded in organizing a republican form of government. Thomas Spence, himself, as president and Findlay Bay secretary (1) The Republic was to flourish under the name, Republic of Caledonia, but was almost immediately changed to "The Republic of Manitoba". The organization took place early in January 1868, and plans were made for the construction of public buildings.

To carry on the government program funds must be forthcoming - The Republican government must levy taxes. The Hudson Bay Company and the small traders were the only monied people in sight, therefore they must pay taxes on goods brought into Portage la Prairie. When the tax notice was served the Hudson Bay official declared that he would pay no tax or duty on goods imported for trade at his post, unless ordered to do so by the government of Rupert's Land. The government was helpless, and found the refusal impossible to deal with. To add to the ineffectiveness of the new government MacPherson of High Bluff floated the rumor that the tax money was used by Spence and his confederates to purchase liquor. Spence issued a warrant for MacPherson's arrest. MacPherson refused to submit to the arrest, but the Constables, Hudson and Anderson finally forced him into their conveyance. At Portage they met John McLean to whom MacPherson appealed for help - McLean advised MacPherson to go to his trial and that he, McLean, would see that he received justice. True to his word McLean went that night to the trial. He was told

(1) R. B. Hill

that MacPherson was on trial for "Treason to the laws of the Republic" and that Mr. Spence was the accuser. This was too much for Mr. McLean. He declared, "We hae nae laws", and turning to Spence said, "Come oot o' that you whited sepulchre, ye canna act as judge and accuser baith". In a ridiculously short time Spence was under the table imploring mercy and MacPherson was free.

Thus rebuffed Spence hardly needed the letter from Buckingham to warn him 'that he and his co-adjutors were acting illegally, and incurring grave responsibilities'. (1) Spence then gave up his presidential duties and undertook to establish a salt plant on Lake Manitoba.

These disturbances at Portage seem to connect up with the trend of affairs at Red River, to quote Begg - "the majority of the settlers were not, therefore, in accord with the few disturbers of the peace, and agitators who had reached the point where there was 'method in their madness', the purpose being to play into the hands of Canada by showing the weakness of the Company' government."

In 1868 most insistent petitions were made to Red River from Portage. On August 6, 1868, the Council met with one object, to lay before the meeting a communication from Andrew Peterson and other residents of Portage la Prairie, regarding a recent occurrence there, in which Francis Demarrais was said to have been shot by Alexander McLean, and requesting the Council of Assiniboia to take cognizance of the matters, with a view to carry out public justice. The Council decided to investigate and the trial was taken to Fort Garry. In December of the same year "the Council of Manitoba", feeling its inability to deal with the matter in a legal manner, as the disturbing Indians were within (2) the jurisdiction of the Council of Assinibois,

(1) Letters appended

(2) Petition appended, Doc. 103 Prov. Library

appealed to the Honorable Body the Council of Assiniboia for protection, or at least assistance.

The Council resolved, "that a Magistrate of the district with the sheriff and twelve constables be instructed to proceed to the neighborhood of High Bluff and Poplar Point for the purpose of meeting those interested in the punishment of the offender and others from Portage and thereafter proceed in a body to the Sioux Camp to investigate and apprehend the offenders if they can be identified."

This resolution was carried out and respite from Sioux depredations was gained.

However, no efficient control was exercised over civil or criminal affairs at Portage la Prairie until after the Riel Insurrection and Manitoba became a province of the Confederation 1870.

CHAPTER IV

THE RIEL INSURRECTION 1869-1870

Responsible men were vainly petitioning, that the Portage settlement be admitted into the Assinibola administration, when suddenly the settlement was bundled into the Province of Manitoba.

On the surface in 1869, it was evident that a change was impending. The population in the Portage settlement was changing. The pioneers of the Cochrane settlement were dominant, and unfriendly to the Hudson's Bay Company; the Ontario settlers were eager for land and prosperity; the Indians were restless. The eastern settlers were gradually increasing in number; they were rarely in another section of Canada, and considered, that ultimately a government such as Ontario boasted would be effected in the prairie land. Any opposition that the Indians might make to the extended settlement was termed negligible; and the Cochrane settlers were, at heart, British. Thus in the nature of its own population, the Portage settlement could not remain long in its detached position with an ineffective council struggling with its civil administration.

However the Canadian Government and Louis Riel did not permit the Portagers to work out their own salvation constitutionally. The transfer of the North West to the Canadian Government was not effected without political difficulties, and these difficulties centred in Red River. The situation and nature of the Portage settlement connected it at once, with the insurrection.

On November 6, 1869, Riel issued a public notice from the President and French speaking population of Rupert's Land in Council, to the inhabitants of Rupert's Land, to send twelve representatives to meet with the French on Tuesday, November 16, 1869, at the Court House, Fort Garry. Mr. John Garrioch represented Portage La Prairie at this meeting. His attitude was creditable. On the one hand the transfer pleased him; for many years he had advocated, that settlement would

never make headway till the power of the Hudson's Bay trading company was removed: on the other hand he had a sympathy with the 'Metis', who seemed in danger of losing 'their rights and privileges', but when Riel proposed forming a provisional government, Mr. Garrioch refused his support.

In Portage la Prairie affairs at Fort Garry were discussed with interest at Mr. John Garrioch's store. Vague rumors were afloat, and it was difficult to decide whether the actions of the Canadian government or Louis Riel were justifiable. A granddaughter of Kenneth Bain declares, 'that the Portagers were not in sympathy with the Canadian government, and that if Riel had not made a mistake by shooting Scott, he would have been the hero of the hour'.

One is inclined to think that the Portagers considered that Riel had overstepped himself, when he arrested some of their friends and acquaintances at Fort Garry on December seventh 1869. Kenneth McKenzie went to the convention in January 1870 with instructions to use every effort to secure the release of these prisoners and keep the settlement posted on events at Red River. Mr. McKenzie was unable to carry out these instructions, but he did express himself freely on the questions debated in the convention. The minutes of the convention show that Mr. McKenzie seconded the motion to proceed with the convention behind closed doors, except regarding clergy of all denominations. In connection with the Bill of Rights, he had not seen the first list of rights, but approved of the commission drawing up a new one. He urged that railroad construction be accelerated, and favored grants to schools and public works. There is no evidence that Mr. McKenzie realized the basic nature of the conflict.

While the convention sat little information as to the real progress of events reached Portage. The prisoners were not released. Feeling ran high over this injustice, and Scott's graphic accounts resulted in a meeting to

organize a relief party.

Colonel Dennis, determined to establish Canadian authority, had sent Major Boulton to Portage in the early winter to gain the loyalty or at least the neutrality of the Sioux in the situation that had arisen, and in every way do his utmost to keep things quiet. Boulton was unable to restrain the efforts of the relief party, so joined with them, and was given command.

February 12th, 1870, "lightly armed, many having only oak clubs, the party mustered and marched off on foot. "Earnestness in their desire to release their friends, made them cheerful under adverse circumstances". Their earnestness was further evinced, when storm delayed at Headingly, a conference was held and Major Boulton resigned command. He was re-nominated, but before the motion was put to the party one asked, "Does Major Boulton mean fight?"

"To accomplish the object for which we left the Portage, if I can see my way clear to accomplish this without undue risk to the force". This reply from Major Boulton, re-elected him.

The Portage party joined the forces mustered at Old Kildonan. The plan to surprise the fort and release the prisoners was not carried out. Riel reluctantly released the prisoners, as he had promised the convention to do. The Portagers would have stayed to depose Riel from his presidency had they not been prevailed upon to return quietly to Portage. The Scotch tenor in the party was shown in the arguments advanced against their sneaking quietly away, a few at a time, and in the fact that they set out in a body, conceding the point to pass some distance from the fort. They might just as well have held out on that point too, and saved themselves the detour; for when they were about opposite to the fort some thirty horsemen led by Riel's henchmen, Lepine and O'Donohue, dashed from the fort, and through the snow toward the Portage men. On the demand for surrender, Boulton urged his men to do so quietly. Murdoch Macleod was probably the most reluctant to surrender his firearms, and

gave Lapine quite a tussle before he finally relinquished his pistol, and marched, a prisoner with the others, to the fort.

No consideration was given to Macleod's obstinacy, but evidently Thomas Scott and Major Boulton were the prizes coveted by Riel. The ill-timed arrest, Boulton's narrow escape with his life, and the tragedy of Scott's death placed Riel absolutely outside the bounds of British sympathy.

The Portagers have been severely criticized for so rashly organizing a relief party, but the British blood protests against arbitrary imprisonment, and one must sympathize with the motives that prompted them to go forth under such conditions. Further, even granted that the venture was ill-timed, that does not give Riel a plausible excuse for taking Scott's life. He might have held Scott with the others until March 26, 1870, and one thing is certain, his cause would not have been impaired.

French exponents have, from time to time, defended Riel for his "one act of rigour". A. H. de Tremandau defends the act vigorously and declares that Portage la Prairie was, during the whole time of the Red River troubles, the chief seat of opposition to Riel and his provisional government. To quote, "Thomas Scott made himself conspicuous during the Red River troubles by associating with the agitators Shultz and company.

During the first convention in November and December 1869, and in the Macdougall and Dennis affairs, he was one of the chief clandestine agents of Shultz in Winnipeg. He was imprisoned with Shultz about December eight. In January Scott escaped and took refuge in Portage La Prairie; in the following February, while the convention of the forty representatives from the whole colony and from Portage, was drawing up and debating the conditions upon which the country would enter into the confederation, Thomas Scott and about one hundred men, all armed, came down from Portage to make war upon Fort Garry, the very seat of the convention. The provisional government had been

recognized and completed by the convention; Scott and his companions could not have been unaware of this fact".

The French defense, "the lawless outsiders who make war upon us", points to the real base of the conflict. The Portage Ontarians were the vanguard of a tide of immigration that the French were loath to see. The dream of a, "Quebec on the Red River", would be frustrated if the North West went under the control of the Canadian government on territorial status. For this reason one is inclined to believe that the Roman Catholic clergy did not allay the fears of the metis concerning the survey; and to safeguard their rights, they used Riel. For this purpose Riel sought for provincial status.

In the convention Riel proposed provincial status, only to have the proposal voted down, and the rights of territorial status discussed and drawn up. In the lists prepared for the delegation to take to Ottawa no mention was made of separate schools. Imagine then, the mystification of the English speaking population when Manitoba went into Confederation 1870 with full provincial status! Not only that but separate schools, reserves of land for the metis, use of French language in the courts, and a second chamber in parliament were all provided for in the Manitoba Act.

Fifteen years later when the province was in the throes of the Manitoba School question, light was thrown on the mystery by the letters that Archbishop Tache himself published in the press. The Old Kildonan settlers, the eastern Canadian settlers, the Metis, had all been blind to the under-current that forced the issue; blind to the fact that Louis Riel was the "brand between the Metis and the church", resisting the movement towards federation, until the privileges of separate schools, use of French language, the second chamber, and grants of land, were absolutely secured. One feels that the old settlers of Manitoba had no realization of the fact that the French were answering Durham's challenge.

Portage la Prairie was included within the limits of the province by the Manitoba Act, but such was not the intention of those who drafted the bill. Upon the first reading of the bill, the Honorable William McDougall called attention to the fact, that the boundary therein described excluded Portage la Prairie, while the line was deflected to take in a settlement marked, "Roman Catholic Mission". The third reading provided for the extended western boundary, ninety-six west longitude.

CHAPTER V

DEVELOPMENT FROM 1870

Immediately upon Manitoba's entrance into the Dominion Confederation, Hon. A. G. Archibald was appointed lieutenant governor of the province. The lieutenant governor visited Portage la Prairie in September 1871. In the address of welcome tendered him by the Portagers this sentence is significant; " - - - - - although we have been stigmatized 'Rebels', you will find us in the hour of call as ready to support you again as we were before to come forward and risk our lives and our liberties in support of constitutional government, and the authority of Her Majesty, the Queen of whom you are the Representative".

The machinery of provincial government was gradually set up. A census of the population was taken and the first provincial election was held December 20, 1870. The returns were:

Frederick Bird	37
John James Setter	36
William Garrioch	3

Mr. Frederick Bird served on the committee of Agriculture and Immigration in the first legislature.

Francis Ogletree was the Portager appointed to the Legislative Council.

The Dominion election held March 2nd, 1871, sent Dr. Lynch to Ottawa, to represent the constituency of Marquette.

Justices of the Peace were appointed in Portage, Courts of Petty Sessions established, and a regular Dominion Mail Service instituted. Charles H. House was appointed Post Master.

The Educational Department organized and got the school districts apportioned. The Portage district was number fifteen and extended from the eastern boundary of electoral division two, to the Hudson Bay fort.

Archbishop Pinkham reported in 1871 to the Department of Education, that the Portage school, in charge of Miss Whimster was well organized. The

average attendance was thirty and the conditions most satisfactory.

Prior to 1871 St. Mary's Anglican Church had ministered to the spiritual needs of the settlement; in this year the Presbyterian Church established a regular mission. The services were held every second Sunday by the Rev. Mr. Fletcher, in the house of Mr. Kenneth Bain.

With a vigorous organization in school, church and state affairs, and a constantly increasing population, Portage la Prairie was by 1871 a promising settlement with a thriving village in its midst.

Section thirty-four of the Consolidated land act said, "any person, male or female who has attained the age of eighteen years, shall be entitled to be entered for one hundred and sixty acres, or for a less quantity of unappropriated Dominion lands, for the purpose of securing a homestead right in respect thereof".

The Manitoban June 17, 1871, published an interesting comment on the people who were taking advantage of the homestead rights on the Portage plains. "Arrival of the Selkirk June 13 - She carried a great deal of freight and about one hundred passengers, most of whom are from Ontario. There are families from the townships of Warwick, Adelaide, Lobo, also from Sarnia and Owen Sound.

Of the new arrivals most of them appear to be of the better class of Canadian farmer. They appear to be highly respectable men, men of sufficient means to encounter the privations of first settlement. They bring with them implements of every description worth from two hundred to two thousand dollars a piece. Judging by their own statement they come out very sanguine as regards the prospects of the country and nothing they have seen as it is, has damped their ardor. They speak of twenty thousand farmers following.

The main body of the present immigrants are bound for the Portage.

The stock they brought with them is of a very superior description, excellent horses, and thoroughbred Durham cattle".

The assessment roll for 1871 - 1872 has upon it seventy-six names. The assessed value spreading from the Hudson Bay Company with five thousand one hundred and eighty-seven dollars to the individual holder with fifty dollars.

Agriculture, the premier industry of the Portage plains was in its infancy in 1871, but one member of the party with the lieutenant governor writes regarding what he saw - "At Rat Creek crossing is Mr. Kenneth McKenzie's excellent farm, seven miles from Portage. Already a large quantity of land is under cultivation and wherever the eye wandered plough and team were at work under the charge of one or other of the strapping boys of which Mr. McKenzie's family consists". The writer also mentioned the fine Durham stock on the McKenzie farm.

That fine herd of Durham cattle is mentioned again in October 1871. The prize list of the first provincial exhibition shows that Mr. McKenzie's stock was of the best in the province. To the McKenzie farm the following prizes were awarded: Best heavy draft brood mare; best three year old colt; best heifer, both two year old and yearling; best spring calf; best Indian corn, beans, potatoes, onions and parsnips.

This first exhibition was a splendid advertisement for the Portage settlement.

By 1875 Portage la Prairie was a place of importance. Every section of land, that was available for homestead privileges was taken. The log buildings of the settlers dotted the prairies; the fertile soil was tilled in ever increasing acreage. Navigation up the Assiniboine from Winnipeg saved the settler to some extent, his long drives to the business centre of the Province.

In 1875 the flat boat system was succeeded by the first regular

line of steam boats established by the North West Navigation Company. In June 1875 the Prince Rupert of one hundred and twenty tons made its pioneer trip from Winnipeg. The success of this trip established a regular system, and more merchants located in the Portage village.

Twenty places of business were functioning in the Portage village by 1876. The pioneer newspaper west of Winnipeg was published in January 1876. Thomas Collins edited this Marquette Review. The paper was most creditable in its reports on foreign and domestic affairs, the news items were pungent, the editorials and political news were slightly biased by party affiliations. However, in most points the early paper compares most favorably with the present day issues in Portage la Prairie.

Optimism was the dominant note of the seventies. In four years the population grew to warrant the incorporation as a town. In January 1880 the Railway reached Portage after many vexatious delays. At once a general advance in real estate commenced. The population in 1880 was eight hundred, with sixty places of business; two banks, two lumber yards, two flour mills, run by steam, and one brick yard. In 1881 when it was known that the Canadian Pacific Railway had passed into the hands of a Syndicate, Portage la Prairie became a point where speculation centred. There were two reasons for this: (1) The location on the strip of land between the Assiniboine River and Lake Manitoba, across which all railway lines from the Red River valley to the North West must pass, whether Winnipeg or Selkirk became the eastern divisional point (2) The splendid belt of agricultural territory.

The rushing town of 1881 was booming in 1882. The population reached thirty-five hundred. A real estate pamphlet summarizes the industries in 1882 as follows: "148 business institutions of every description in full blast within the city limits, of this, 44 are banks, real estate offices and offices of professional men; 14 hotels, 10 sundry, 80 mercantile and manu-

facturing interests. Of these one hundred and forty-eight some fifty have sprung into existence during twelve months and fifty during six months.

Nor will her rapid progress end here, for her location, her other advantages and the enterprise of her citizens will raise her by the close of the present decade to a city of thirty thousand people, with a volume of business which will proclaim her one of the great industrial centres of the North West.

Preparation was made for this tremendous growth by an extended survey for town lots. The farmers, four miles from the limits of the present city, were contemplating the sale of their homesteads for town lots.

However, the men on the land, tilled the soil, sowed the grain, reaped the harvest; and by honest toil won the titles to their homesteads. In the town men made a living and were on the highway to wealth with much less effort. But by 1865 the townsman were reaping the harvest of the "boom". In reality the boom collapsed in 1862, but the worst effects were not realized for two or three years. The Mayor and councillors had to admit that the town was bankrupt and pleaded for mercy from its creditors. The creditors were circularized in October 1865. The circular contained a financial statement for the years from 1861 to 1865. This statement showed that the deficit did not arise from any fraudulent handling of funds, but was directly caused from the unstable volume of business in 1861 - 1862. 'The extravagant expenditures were made with the full knowledge of the people, and in the belief that they were wise and within the means of the corporation'. The town corporation did just as the individual citizen; it ran itself recklessly into debt. The extravagant prices actually paid for real estate during the winter of 1861-62, caused men holding real property to imagine themselves exceedingly wealthy, and large debts were incurred, with the expectation of paying them out of the proceeds of real estate. The assessment

of town property was high, and as long as rents were high and lots selling, the ratepayers found it easy to pay taxes and all went smoothly; but immediately true values were reached troubles arose. The financial standing of the town had to be placed clearly before the public and the council was pledged to retrenchment.

Despite all retrenchment the interest on the debts incurred, could not be met. Every department under the corporation ceased to function. The greatest disaster was in the schools. One room for the little children was kept open by private subscription. A private school, known as Lansdowne College was established and this school bridged the gap for the senior classes, until the public schools functioned again.

In May 1886 a basis of settlement for the town debt was arrived at. The principal and interest was reduced to a sum that was considered possible to be handled without crippling the progress of the town. Portage la Prairie then began her long struggle to pay off the mortgage.

Like all mortgages it was an arresting shadow, and for twenty-five years impeded expansion. The population simmered down to those who could earn a livelihood in the town. The surplus real estate offices, hotels and general places of business disappeared. Portage settled into the usual prairie town, with its post office, fire hall, blacksmith shops, hotels and general stores pretty much confined to its one long wide street, Saskatchewan Avenue. Business in the town depended upon the success or failure of the harvests in the rural municipality.

In 1906-07 a little spurt of flame leaped through the shadow. Enterprising business men organized to arouse Portage la Prairie to vie with the growing west and induce immigrants to the plains. This effort was made upon a sound foundation and the results were lasting.

The fact that over three million bushels of wheat were shipped

from the Portage plains alone in 1906-07, together with the knowledge that mixed farming was more prevalent, and that Portage was noted for heavy draught horses and all thorough-bred stock, made a demand for farm land that increased the value to sums ranging from thirty to fifty dollars per acre.

With prosperity in the rural areas the town was able to make decided advances. Edward Brown and his council set to work to remove the disability of the preference debenture mortgage. They paid the old creditors in full, and arranged for a new issue of debenture and sinking fund, amounting to one hundred and eighty-six thousand, two hundred and forty dollars (\$186,240). With the old disability removed and a population increased to six thousand and sixty-nine the town corporation gave place to that of a city. The outward signs of advancement from a prairie town to a prairie city were granolithic sidewalks; and extended lighting system; the installation of a splendid system of water works; and the formation of a beautiful public park on the island.

From that day to the present Portage la Prairie has been steadily holding its own, through the vicissitudes that have assailed all western cities. It has paid the interest on its debts and reduced the debt. The auditor's report for 1924 shows a nominal surplus of two hundred and three thousand and nineteen dollars and thirty cents, (\$203,019.30). A further indication of her sound financial standing is the difficulty to procure Portage la Prairie bonds. It would seem however that future progress must be slow; but the steady upward tendency is lasting.

The city ministers to the needs of a large agricultural community, and it is interesting to note that after over twenty years business experience in Portage the Hon. Edward Brown declared that (1) " It was the land and what

(1) From address delivered at Portage la Prairie on eve of departure for Winnipeg.

APPENDICES

- A. Petition from Portage la Prairie, Dec. 29, 1868.
(Doc. 103, Prov. Library)
- B. Letter from Thos. Spence to Secretary of State for
Colonial Affairs.
- C. Reply from Downing Street.
- D. Old timer's contribution to the Marquette Weekly
Review, March 1868.
- E. Letter from John Garrioch to Editor of Nor Wester -
Dec. 24, 1868, regarding Mr. Ross' Mission to England.
- F. Account of "Portage Party Cobbled Up" as taken from
New Nation Feb. 18, 1870.
- G. Opposition to immigration - New Nation, March 1869.
- H. Address to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of
Manitoba, by the inhabitants of Portage la Prairie.
- I. The first assessment list of St. Mary's parish.
- J. The first school report.
- K. An account of Picheite from "The Review" 1864.
- L. Extracts from circular letter to Creditors of town
of Portage la Prairie - 1865.
- M. Town Debt - from Review May 1866.

it would produce that would sustain the city". Certainly one cannot hope to see Portage a great industrial centre until the population of Western Canada is many times what it is to-day.

Further one cannot hope to see the Portage plains assume an altogether prosperous appearance until the population becomes less vacillating. It makes one pause to find that only sixty-five of the original land owners or their immediate families, are on that land to-day. What became of them? Some set to work and cropped the soil, till its fertility was exhausted, and then sold the land and sought new land further west, or sought a less rigorous climate in the east or south. Some like the early townsmen made improvements too rapidly and lost the homestead to a mortgage company. Others, the few shrewd men, worked diligently, spent carefully and aided by a growing family of sons, managed to buy the land that the others were either eager or forced to sell. The result, that large areas were gradually owned by one farmer and the buildings of the homesteader abandoned and dilapidated made a blot on the landscape. The sixty-five established permanent homes have been the backbone of the whole development.

With time and improved conditions the western population will become more stable, the unsightly blots will disappear. The Canadian on the Portage plains will prove himself worthy of his heritage.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Canadian North West Documents - Prof. E. H. Oliver
Journals of Hanson
Journals of John McDonnell
Narrative of Transactions in the Red River Country, Alexander McDonell
Report from the Select Committee of the Hudson Bay Company 1857
Journals of John West
Dominion Sessional Papers 1889
Manitoba Sessional Papers - 1871, 1906-07
Manitoba Pamphlets - Prov. Library
Papers - Hor Wester
New Nation
Manitoban
Winnipeg Free Press
Marquette Tribune & Review
Portage la Prairie Liberal
- Red River - Report of Coltrane and Fletcher 1819
Half Century of Conflict - Vol. II Parkman
Hudson's Bay Company - Bryce
The History of Canada - William Kingsford
A short History of Canadian People - Bryce
The Story of Manitoba - Schofield
History of the Dominion of Canada - Creswell
First Furrows - Garrloch
History of Manitoba - Hill
History of the North West - 3 Vols. Bagg
Company of Adventurers - Cowie
A History of the Catholic Church in Western Canada - Rev. A. G. Morice
History of the Dominion of Canada - Withrow
Manitoba Memories - Young
The Canadian West - Dugas
Travels and Adventures in Canada and the Indian Territory - Alexander Henry.
New Light on the early History of the Greater North West - Henry-Thompson
Journals by Elliott Coues.
- The Red River Settlement - Ross
History of Manitoba - Gunn and Tuttle
Red River - Hargrave
Our North Land - Tuttle
Manitoba and the Great North West - John Macoun
Reminiscences of the North West Rebellion - Boulton
Canadian Historical Review - Vol. I.
Canada and its Provinces - Vol. I & II.
Lord Selkirk's Work in Canada - Chester Martin
-

Appendix A.

Dec. 29, 1866. (Dec. 103, Prov. Library)

"We the Council of Manitoba respectfully submit for your consideration the following petition - In view of the depredations which have been and are being daily committed upon us; and considering the liability that owing to scarcity of provisions these depredations will increase as the season becomes more severe; and moreover that, on this day by their own confessions the Sioux Indians have acknowledged that some members of the tribe did commit the last act of which we now make mention viz, "that on the night of the 13th of Dec. an ox was taken from the stable of Messrs. Hay & Sinclair; driven to a Sioux encampment at or near Lake Manitoba and there butchered. The tracks in the new fallen snow were followed to the vicinity of the Sioux Camp by some of the citizens when dark overtook them and the trail was lost. This makes a certainty of the suspicion heretofore entertained against the Sioux, that they are the ones who have stolen so many cattle from this settlement, and as the citizens of Portage la Prairie have applied to the Council of Manitoba for redress, therefore, this Council feeling its inability to deal with the matter in a legal manner, as these Indians, most of them at least, are within the jurisdiction of the Council of Assiniboia and are moreover the Indians belonging to the American Govt, now appeal to your Honorable Body, for protection, or at least assistance in our need and hope that you may be able to point out to us some measures by which we may obtain redress for the wrongs already done and safety for the future. The citizens here are law-abiding and wish not to commit any rash act to prejudice the safety at all hazards and their own peril if, compelled to do so, wishing at the same time to avoid any action which might involve the

rest of the settlement in difficulty, they are willing to await a short time the action of your honorable body, feeling that the case is one of such moment and one that requires immediate action we would request that the Council of Assinibois answers the petition in the next 10 days.

(Signed) P. H. Bird (Clerk)

Fortage la Prairie

Dec. 16, 1868.

Appendix B.

La Prairie, Manitoba,
Via Red River Settlement,
February 19, 1868.

My Lord -

As president elect, by the people of the newly-organized Government and Council of Manitoba, in British territory, I have the dutiful honor 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 favorable 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.

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 and 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 four hundred, it was unanimously decided to at once proceed to the election and construction of a government - which has accordingly been carried out - a revenue imposed, public buildings commenced, to carry out the laws, provisions made for Indian treaties, the 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, 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 Port; 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 the honor to remain, My Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

T. Spence

Pres. of the Council

To the Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs, London, England.

Appendix C.

Downing Street,
May 30th, 1868.

sir - I am directed by the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos to inform you that your letter of the 19th of February last, addressed to the Secretary of State for foreign affairs, has been forwarded to this department, and that His Grace has also received a copy of a letter addressed by you to Mr. Angus Morrison, a member of the Canadian Parliament, dated the 17th February last.

In these communications you explain the measures that have been taken for creating a so-called self-supporting government in Manitoba, within the territory of the Hudson's Bay Company.

The people of Manitoba are probably not aware that the creation of a separate government in the manner set forth in these papers, has no force in law, and that they have no authority to create or organise a government or even to set up Municipal institutions (properly so-called) for themselves, without reference to the H.B.Co. or to the Crown -

Her Majesty's Government are advised that there is no objection to the people of Manitoba voluntarily submitting themselves to rules & regulations, which they may agree to observe for the greater protection and improvement of the territory in which they live, but which will have no force as regards others than those who may have submitted themselves, as it is inferred that the intention is to exercise jurisdiction over offenders in criminal cases, to levy taxes compulsorily, and to attempt to put in force other powers, which can only be exercised by a properly constituted government. I am desired to warn you, that you and your co-adjutors are acting illegally in this matter, and that, by the course you are adopting, you are incurring grave responsibilities.

I am Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Buckingham.

Appendix D.

From The Weekly Review - March 1888.

Contributed to the "Review" by Mr. Malcolm Cummings who has been a resident of Portage for nearly 30 years.

Portage la Prairie and its business establishments -

The town of Portage la Prairie was founded by Archdeacon Cochrane who brought up some settlers from St. Andrews and purchased from the Indian chief a tract of land stretching from Smith's old saw mill to the West end. The Indian chief promised the Archdeacon more land as soon as "his children", the settlers should have been sufficiently numerous to occupy the land already bought. The Hudson Bay Co. post was at Hamilton's crossing about 20 miles west of town, but in '62 the company built the place now known as the Old Fort. Before the building of the Fort, Charles House had a trading post near the site of Mr. Chas. Hay's residence, and a little later Mr. John Garrloch established a small store in 1856 further east. The Indian Village was out near the West end brewery, and the other village was at the House trading post, with a few settlers residences along the slough road. Mr. Malcolm Cummings lived next door to the Indian village and beside him were Sheriff Setter, who had purchased the place from Mr. Chas. Hay; Candy the father of the man lately condemned for the murder of Hector McLeish.

Contributed by Henry Ogletree:

Down near John O'Reilly's store was a wind mill for grinding the grain of the settlers. The Indian school was near Cairn's brewry and taught by Malcolm Cummings; the average attendance being thirty scholars who received board as well as tuition at the school. Thus the settlement continued for a number of years, the old timers, the Macleans, Cummings Setters, Hay and others electing every year a civic committee to look after the interests of the

settlers and preserve peace and order as far as possible between the Chippeways and the Sioux, about three hundred of whom had come over here after the Minnesota Massacre in 1862. It was no easy task for the Chippeways were very restless and had a hankering for the scalps of the Sioux, which they gratified wherever a lonely opportunity occurred, though they occasionally had dog feasts and smoked the pipe of peace with each other. An immense trade was done in furs as traders frequently came from as far west as Fort Walsh. The Hudson Bay store being off the Avenue trail which stretched from Fort Garry to Battleford, lost much of this trade because of situation, so in 1867 they built a store at the west end near T. A. Newman's present stand, where they remained until their removal a couple of years ago to their present position.

Contributed by Mr. Chas. Hay ex M.P.P. who has been here since 1866.

"When I first came to Portage the best house was built and owned by an Indian named Pichetu. It was neatly built of oak logs and had a shingled roof. The house stood near the slough road at the west corner of Farquhar Maclean's farm. The farms were all along the river and the slough for the better protection of the settlers. They were generally about twelve chains wide and two miles long. Down near Pratt's landing was the school for the settlers' children which had an attendance of about thirty at the time. There was also an Indian School west of Cairns' brewry, as it was always a part of the Archdeacon's policy to give the Indians the same education as the settlers' children. Before seeing the fruits of all his noble toil the Venerable Archdeacon died leaving in the hands of his son-in-law the Rev Henry George, the charge. The Indian gave lots of trouble in those days, in fact they made life at this point full of interest to all the settlers and that is perhaps the reason the latter stayed. The chance of losing your scalp gave life a zest not found in these peaceable times. The Sioux were very overbearing

and impudent. I have known them to let down the fences and turn their animals into the wheat field of a settler and him looking on.

About 1867 and prior to the Hudson Bay moving to the west end of the town, four men all Americans, opened a business place immediately west of W. J. James' present residence. They had all served as officers in the American Army, one of them as a Captain, and were all supplied with the most improved fire arms. After running the business for a time one of the party got embroiled in a quarrel with an Indian who was walking off with an axe concealed in his blanket. The following morning while two of the firm were sorting goods in an outside storehouse Wolverine a notoriously bad Indian approached and fired at William Salmon, the nearest man. As "Uncle Billy" supported the injured man, Wolverine struck with a drawn knife the side of Uncle Billy. Billy wheeled and struck the Indian a blow on the head, knocked him down and made his way to the house. As he entered Indians that had congregated fired upon them. The other partners attracted by the firing in alarm seized rifles and fired on the Indians. The firing continued, more Indians arriving under cover except for a fence rail. Here one Indian was shot cold by Capt. O'Lorne. The settlers now appeared fully armed and the Indians disappeared.

The wounded men were taken to John McLean's house and the Indians carried off their dead men. After this the firm moved to Winnipeg. Salmon died from wounds. Uncle Billy and O'Lorne later went to the States and were shot dead in a quarrel near the boundary.

Not long after this another general store was established by Maurice Lomand on the property now occupied by Mrs. Gilbert. One Sunday afternoon when the settlers were in the church near Pratt's landing a party of Indians came down to Lomand's store to procure goods. Lomand refused credit, and the Indians knocked him down, and proceeded to help themselves. The adult males in the vicinity were all at church, so the women objected

to the robbery, with no avail. They sent to the church for help. After getting rifles and small arms, the men from church hastily repaired to where the Indians were assembled. The Indians were sitting (50 of them) on the grass with rifles across their knees.

When thirty yards from the Indians the settlers halted, and Peter Garricoh addressed the Indians. 'The white men do not take up arms on Sunday for nothing. The time has come when we must know whether the white men or the Indians are to be the masters in Portage la Prairie. If the Indians think they are masters they must fight for it'. An Indian replied, 'When we have equal numbers we will fight. There are more of you than us now but before the sun rises there will be many a house in blackened ruins in Portage'. The Indians slide into cover and the settlers let them, but guarded that night. All was quiet and the affair blew over.

At the time affairs in Portage presented a somewhat critical aspect. Large bands of Indians were encamped around the Old Fort, and the Indian School had ceased to operate and was occupied by some of the toughest Indians of either British or American plains.

The settlers were frequently notified to leave, the Indians claiming they had never disposed of their rights to this part of the country, though as a matter of fact their title had been sold to Lord Selkirk.

The settlers took good care not to give excuse to commence hostilities, although they continually lost cattle and horses and John McLean had two fine oxen deliberately shot by a red-skinned brave. Three young men captured this brave and chucked him into Mr. Bird's cellar. They gathered a jury of settlers, all heads of families congregated. On their arrival the prisoner was brought from the cellar and placed on a chair. Twelve settlers sworn as a jury the case proceeded. Evidence produced proved this the identical Indian who had slain the oxen. The room was cleared for the jury

to consider the verdict; the prisoner again relegated to the cellar. For two hours the jury argued. Nine would hang him on an oak in front of the house but the other three strenuously opposed this measure.

Those in favor of the extreme penalty believed that something must be done to strike terror into the Indian whose conduct had been so outrageous. The Council of Assiniboia did not embrace Portage La Prairie and when at the expense of citizens offenders had been sent down, they were generally allowed to get off either by breaking jail or by some flaw in the evidence.

The tribunal did not care for cases out of its jurisdiction. It was felt therefore if the Indian went down he would escape and the tribe be encouraged in its rampages. As no argument could induce the three jurors to concur in the opinion held by the nine, the prisoner had to be sent to the fort for trial. After the verdict was given by the jury a subscription was taken up sufficient to defray the expenses of the trip and the Indian was securely bound and placed in a wagon. Next afternoon he was safely deposited in Fort Garry jail, a receipt was given for his delivery and the driver retired to rest before starting home. Imagine his surprise next morning, to find the prisoner had broken jail and was doubtless on his way to Portage. The driver hastened back to warn the settlers and the three men who had captured the Indian took 'safety first' precautions. They located the Indian one mile south of the Assiniboine River, three miles from the settlement. A party of twelve settlers well armed set out for the camp, surrounded it, and closed in but 'no man'. He left for north of Lake Manitoba. He returned after the Province was in confederation and was a peaceable man on a Reserve.

Fred Bird managed a business belonging to Dr. Shultz on the Slough Road. This was the place where village news was talked over and in the fall of 1869 they found considerable food for conversation, i.e.

the Riel Rebellion - Rumors of evil were flying thick and fast so that the settlers deemed it necessary to form themselves into a company for regular drill. The command was given to Captain Webb and drill was regularly attended to. The object was for the company to march out to meet McDougall, then on his way to the province. Towards this end leggings were purchased and the women of the settlement gathered at the school and at Rev. Mr. George's residence to sew them. A considerable quantity of scarlet cloth was being contracted for at the Hudson Bay Company's store to make coats etc. when one night Colonel Dennis arrived from Fort Garry and stated that between seventy and eighty men had been taken prisoner while defending the government stores in Dr. Shultz's building, and that he had escaped. In the morning Mr. Davis, who had charge of the Hudson Bay Store drove Col. Dennis to the boundary, as it was considered unwise for him to stay around.

The company quit drilling but a secret organization was formed which had for its object the liberation of the prisoners. Each member was sworn to secrecy and so well was this pledge kept that cases occurred in which no one in the house knew which one of their number had started for Fort Garry.

After the capture of the prisoners Riel called a convention from the various parts of the Province. From this settlement Mr. Kenneth McKenzie was sent down as a delegate. He had instructions to get the release of the prisoners if possible and to keep the settlement posted on the situation. The settlers waited and waited and as no word came from him the members of the organization left one night with the intention of storming the house under cover of darkness and releasing the prisoners. They marched to Headingly under command of Capt. Webb, where they were joined at the church by Capt. Farmer and twenty or thirty followers".

Appendix H

The Mission to England.

Written to Editor of Nor Wester by John Garrioch, Portage la Prairie,
Dec. 24, 1862.

"We the inhabitants of Portage la Prairie have taken into due consideration the intended journey of that very worthy gentleman, Mr. James Ross to England, and the cause that takes him viz, the welfare of his country and countrymen. In fact not only his countrymen (half-breeds) but Scotch settlers too, who have been for many years residents and who from exemplary conduct may be considered models to any Christian community - It is worthy of notice that the scope or current of your petition is in accordance with another who used to maintain that Red River never would be what it ought to be so long as the Council of Assiniboia was over-ruled by a Fur Trading Company, i.e.

Rev. J. McCallum - "Surely the devil must be in this country, for we pass laws for the benefit of settlement yet they are always twisted and turned to benefit the Company".

Tender our sincere wishes and prayer for Mr. Ross' success - Feeling my duty as a native of the country, one long neglected politically, I went from house to house to ascertain the feelings of my countrymen and the Canadians - the Result - "I would help Mr. Ross, but how can I. Here are four bags of pemican; buy one and I shall be able to show my sympathy". Another, "I have wheat, but who will buy?" Another, "I intend to kill an ox for sale, but who will buy"?

Does this not show a change is requisite? Not blaming Gov. McTavish but the company back of him. - - - - - These dear Sirs the humble sentiments of your upper neighbors the Portage people; who once were residents

of Red River, but who on account of the rotten swamp that prevented us from extending farms and pastures, had to remove to where we are now happily beyond the influence of your Red River Council".

Appendix F.

New Nation, Friday Feb. 18, 1870. Vol 1, No. 7.

"A Portage Detachment Gobbled up" - Startling Episode.

Among those seeking their homes on the morning of the 17th, after the bloodless campaign of 2 days before, was a small detachment of Portage and Assiniboine men. There were some 15 carioles & 8 or 10 on horseback. About 11 o'clock in the forenoon, they passed Wpg - not taking the highway, but striking out on the plains. As soon as they came in sight of Ft. Garry, out sprung about 30 horsemen, at full race, amid calls and cheers of hundreds of their comrades who lined the ramparts of the Fort. With Adjutant - General Lapine & Mr. O'Donoghue at their head, the little detachment plunged through the snow drifts -

Wpg was all excitement once again - On the house-tops, on the road, at the windows, on the fencing - everywhere - the townsmen and those who happened to be in town at the time - watched intently the two parties as they closed. Our office, became completely demoralized for the 4th and 5th time this week - devils printers, reporter & editor all rushed out to see the fight. From a woodpile we viewed the collision. The horsemen swept over the plain furiously until they headed off the English brigade - The latter cocked and presented their gun. The cavalry prepared to return the salute. But just as we expected the carnage to begin - it didn't. The guns were lowered. Nobody was hurt; but the calling was tremendous - for the Portage detachment was "gobbled up". They were disarmed and escorted as prisoners to the fort - What is to be done with them, we have not yet heard - The flag brought down from Portage was among the trophies of this engagement.

Those thus made prisoner were in number 48 - and their names are -

Portage La Prairie

Capt. Boulton
John McLean
Robert McBain
Wilder Bartlett
James McBain
Dan Sissons
A. Murray
W. Farmer
Lawrence Smith
Charles McDonald
John Switzer
H. Williams
Alex. McPherson
W. G. Bird
Alex. McLean

Poplar Point

Geo. Wylde
D. Taylor
A. Taylor
Geo. Newcombe
H. Taylor

High Bluff

J. Paquin
Geo. Sandison
W. Paquin
J. Dillworth
Wm. Dillworth
R. Adams
J. Paquin
M. McLeod
Archibald McDonald
James Jack
Thos. Scott
Jas. Sanderson

Headingley

J. B. Morrison
W. Salter
Magnus Brown
N. Morrison
W. Sutherland
Robt. Dennison
Jos. Smith
Chas. Hillar
Thos. Baxter
Jno. Taylor
John McKay

St. James Parish

Sergt. Powers
John Ivy

River Salle

G. Parker

Appendix G.

NOR WESTERN MARCH 1869

Spring 1869 All spring there has been more or less immigration into the favorite region Portage la Prairie. Nearly all land on the bank of the river is taken. Several have laid off claims on Rat Creek. The Indians near the Hudson Bay Post told them they must not settle there and if they persisted they ran the risk of violence. This story exaggerated - Mr. Mair and Dr. Shultz visited the Indians and talked with Heantepuntun and two sons of Pequis, Sahwalgun and Yellow Plume.

Mr. Mair asked them about preventing the brothers from Canada settling on Rat Creek - Sahwalgun said he had pointed out another place for them to settle, but that they were not satisfied - Mr. Mair then explained the situation and that they (the Indians) would be compensated - Finally the Indians declared that they would offer no more opposition.

Appendix II.

Address presented to His Excellency the Lieutenant
Governor by the inhabitants of Portage la Prairie.

"May it please your Excellency,

We the inhabitants of Portage la Prairie extend to you
a most hearty welcome and extremely regret that we are unable on this
occasion to furnish you with a stronger proof of our loyalty and
attachment to your position as her Majesty's representative.

Your Excellency's short stay prevents us from giving
expression to all our sentiments and feelings in reference to the
great future of this province.

We are aware of the difficulties attending your high
and honorable position amidst the surges of political strife and
animosity which have prevailed to a great extent in this colony
during the last two years; and we cannot but avail ourselves of the
opportunity of assuring your Excellency that although we have been
stigmatized as "Rebels" you will find us in the hour of call as ready
to support you again as we were before to come forward and risk our
lives and our liberties in support of Constitutional Government and
the authority of Her Majesty the Queen of whom you the representative."

Appendix I

1872 the 1st. assessment of Portage la Prairie was taken
by Capt. Newcombe of Poplar Point -

Assessed value of the property, Real and personal of the
Inhabitants of the Parish of St. Mary's, according to the assessment
Roll for 1871 and 1872.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Total Amount of Property</u>
1.	Hon. Francis Ogletree	\$627.00
2.	Malcolm Cummings	425.00
3.	William Sinclair	658.00
4.	Arch. McDonald	200.00
5.	George Garrioch	370.00
6.	John Connor	550.00
7.	Thomas Sissons	345.00
8.	Hudson Bay Co.	5,187.00
9.	John Dougald McKay	811.00
10.	William Garrioch	655.00
11.	Chas. Curtis	500.00
12.	Chas. Hair	2,000.00
13.	Gavin Garrioch	800.00
14.	Chas. Cummings	425.00
15.	John McLean	1,075.00
16.	Marlett & Dickson	750.00
17.	William Gaddy	625.00
18.	Frederick Bird	465.00
19.	Hiram Topic	1,000.00
20.	William Hodgson	534.00
21.	Thos. Corrigal	145.00
22.	William Smith	2,990.00
23.	Alexander Anderson	2,510.00
24.	Laurence Smith	480.00
25.	Chas. H. House	2,244.00
26.	Drs. Lynch & Jacques	2,000.00
27.	Farquhar McLean	1,765.00
28.	Kenneth McLean	1,813.00
29.	Martin Burwell	750.00
30.	Peter Anderson	100.00
31.	Basil Morrison	100.00
32.	Thos. Anderson, Jr.	140.00
33.	Thos. Anderson, Sr.	95.00
34.	John Michael	130.00
35.	Henry Anderson	407.00
36.	John Garrioch	2,270.00
37.	Alexander McDonald	175.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Total Amount of Property</u>
38. John James Setter	\$450.00
39. Mrs. John Spence (widow)	190.00
40. Rev. Henry George	1,765.00
41. Drs. Gowan & Lyons	815.00
42. William Walker	60.00
43. John Forester	130.00
44. David Cossiter	2,168.00
45. Jesse Green	330.00
46. John Corrigal	900.00
47. James B. Holmes	1,210.00
48. Alec. Whiteford	762.00
49. Roderick McLeod	988.00
50. Robert Flett	1,268.00
51. P. Henderson, Sr.	622.00
52. P. Henderson, Jr.	222.00
53. Chas. Henderson	207.00
54. James Henderson	195.00
55. Alec. Sandison	50.00
56. Roger Bell	380.00
57. John Heally	175.00
58. Joseph Little	190.00
59. Adam Huddleston	67.00
60. William McDonald	417.00
61. Alexander Richardson	400.00
62. Alexander Murray	300.00
63. Thomas Boddy	300.00
64. Philander Bartlett	440.00
65. Wilder Bartlett	500.00
66. John J. Walker	60.00
67. Alex. McPherson	300.00
68. Joseph Corrigal	325.00
69. Henry Corbett	736.00
70. Clinton Giddings	705.00
71. John Robertson	360.00
72. John Scott	410.00
73. Kenneth McKensie	388.00
74. Thomas Huddleston	1,421.00
75. James Jack	685.00
76. Moffat & Davidson	400.00

Geo. Newcombe

Clerk of the Peace for Marquette

Poplar Point, July 15th, 1872.

Appendix J.

Report of W. Cyprian Pinkham, Superintendent
of Education (Sessional Paper XVII)
(15) Portage la Prairie School.

I examined this school on Nov. 1. In July
there were 62 names on the Roll: in Nov - 74 - this
school has made excellent progress during the past year -
I was much pleased with the thoroughness of Miss Whimster's
teaching and with the general management of the School.

Appendix K.

Feb. 15, 1884.

An old log house which has stood for years on the bank of the slough, near the intersection of Broadway with River St. on the left hand corner, has just succumbed to the advancement of civilization. At one time the house was the best in the settlement, and was remarkable for being the first shingled house west of Winnipeg. It was built by an Indian hunter and trader named Picheito, a wealthy, shrewd and scheming man.

Picheito was the son of a white man, who was stolen while yet a child, by the Indians at Detroit during the war of 1812. When General Wolseley was coming through to Winnipeg with the 1st Expedition, he wanted a guide to take him from the Lake of the Woods to Red River. At Fort Frances Picheito's father volunteered to act as guide, and though he had been brought up to the life of an Indian, his superior blood and birth were observed by Wolseley who made enquiries regarding his antecedents. On returning to Canada Wolseley set himself to trace out his young guide's parents - and was successful. The young guide was then sent to his natural home, but the habit of Indian life had so grown up in him, that he could not live among the white people, so he again returned to the wigwams of the Red man. He married an Indian woman and he had two sons, Picheito and Mr. Tanner. Picheito amassed a large amount of wealth by his shrewdness, and was recognized as a sort of leader and adviser among the Ogibway Indians, though socially mixing with them very little except for trade. He is supposed to have been the secret cause of the collision between the Red Lake Indians and American Sioux at Lake Manitoba 1873.

Appendix L.

Extracts from Circular Letter to Creditors.

Town of Portage la Prairie 1885.

Officials:

J. P. Young, Esq. Mayor
W. A. Prest, Esq. Sec. Treas.
Joseph Martin Solicitor

Councillors:

East Ward) E. B. Miller, Esq.,
(Hugh Harley

(W. J. Pratt
Centre Ward (Wm. Garland

(James McLenaghan
West Ward (K. P. Reich

To the Creditors of the Town of Portage la Prairie:

Gentlemen:

The Council of the town of Portage la Prairie finding it impossible to meet its obligations in full at the present time submit the following statements and proposition for the purpose of explaining the present situation and if possible arranging a settlement.

The town was incorporated on the 18th day of November A.D. 1880 and the first election held in the beginning of 1881.

The assessment for the year 1881 was \$848,000. A rate of 12 mills on the dollar was levied.

The receipts for 1881 were as follows:

Taxes	\$8,851.99
Licenses	901.59
Fines in Police Court	67.00
Rent of Town Hall	30.00
Borrowed on Note	34,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$43,850.58

Expenditures 1881:

Discount	\$ 2,025.52
Miscellaneous Expenses	5,707.56
Salaries	1,578.65
Public Schools	2,675.35
Health & Charity	142.50
Permanent Improvement etc.	
Work on streets	5,850.65
Real Estate	450.00
Town Hall	12,512.59
Steam Fire engine	5,112.41
Fire Hall and tower	2,040.45
Hook and ladder trucks	323.40
Fire tanks	617.50
Side walks and crossings	<u>6,809.94</u>
Total for equipment	35,716.94
Total Receipts	43,850.55
Total Expenditure	<u>45,046.50</u>
Balance	4.08

Assessment for 1882 was \$7,080,000. A rate of 6 mills was levied.

Receipts	127,296.88
Expenditure	<u>126,668.16</u>
Balance	628.72

In receipts one item -

Borrowed on Note 61,170.00

In Expenditures:

Permanent Work 67,201.02

The assessment for 1883 - \$3,702,868 and 12 mills levied.

Receipts	109,178.19
Expenditures	107,687.14

In 1884 - Assessment - \$2,508,191 - Rate 17-4/10 mills

Receipts	43,941.52
Expenditures	45,484.26
Deficit	1,542.74

In 1885 - Assessment	\$938,565.00
Receipts for half year to June 1885	- 43,732.35
Expenditures	42,636.48
Deficit	106.13

In addition to the school board debt and the judgment and debentures herein after mentioned the town owes about one thousand dollars more on the C.P.R. right of way and a few small accounts amounting to very little. The following judgments stand against the town:

Amount	\$39,904.50
--------	-------------

The 30,000 debenture issue bears interest at $8\frac{1}{2}\%$ and the \$7,000 issue at 8%. The debentures payable in annual instalments - - Debentures to the amount of \$137,000 have sold realizing \$130,606.72 for general purposes of permanently improving the town \$108,409.96 was actually spent. \$9,192.23 was paid to purchase the Right of Way for the C.P.R. under an agreement between the company and the town at the time the railway first reached the place. Money that was expected to be raised from sale of debentures was spent before the debentures were sold.

The present debt of the town amounts to \$240,535.47, leaving out the school board judgment.

Taking into consideration the present assessment which is even higher than the real value of the property it is plain that the town is not able to pay the interest on its debt; the inflation caused by the "boom" in 1881 - 82 is the source of the trouble.

If the assessment could have been kept up to the figures at which it was placed when the debt was incurred and taxes, levied on the basis of such assessment, could be actually collected, there would be no difficulty in meeting the principal and interest.

~~4~~

All the debenture by-laws provide for sinking funds, but no fund has been formed. There has however been no misappropriation of the money - all the moneys borrowed by the town and received as taxes have been applied for legitimate town purposes.

Appendix H.

Town Debt. Review May 1886

A basis of settlement arrived at.

A deputation of citizens consisting of Mayor Young, Councillors McLenaghan, Harley & Miller and Messrs. Hagarty, Boddy, Prest and Robinson went to Winnipeg, May 6, 1886, to confer with the Committee of the House and the creditors of the town, with a view to arriving at some basis upon which the financial difficulties of the town could be satisfactorily arranged. As a result of the conference the following proposition was submitted to the delegation by Mr. Boyle on behalf of the creditors.

That the debt in total be reduced so that the principal and interest on the last day of May shall be \$200,000 - New debentures to be issued for this amount and to be divided pro rata among the creditors; the interest to be 3½% for first six years, 4% for next nine years, and 5% for next fifteen years, to be payable half yearly; the old debentures and coupons and the other securities held by the creditors to be placed in the hands of the provincial treasurer, and if default in payment on the new debentures be made, the old ones to be returned to the creditors, and the old debt revived in lieu of the new debentures, less the amount that may have been paid, this provision as to default to be applicable only to the first fifteen years; the debts referred to are those shown in the schedule, and amount to about \$260,900: the town not to incur further debts until these are paid.

At a Mass Meeting of citizens, the above proposals were unanimously accepted.