

Echo de l'Ouest, 1 April 1885

“Do what you ought to do whatever may happen”

Demeules & Laramee, Proprietors; E.R. Dufresne, Editor

(Minneapolis French Newspaper, Published from 1885 to 1929.)

Translated by Bill Horn, Assisted by Kathy Horan-Grambsch & Jackie Demeules Hofhenke)

Minneapolis

Voter Registration

On Friday and Saturday voter registration takes place in each ward of the city. It is unnecessary to insist among our compatriots the importance of registering in order to exercise voting rights and vote on April 7.

Yesterday evening there was an assembly of French Canadians of the 3rd Ward, presided over by M. C. Marchesseault. It was unanimously decided to support the candidacy of M. Eichorn for councilman. This position by our compatriot of the ward was taken to revenge the defeat of M. William Bourret and is fully justified under the circumstance.

We all hope that in this constituency, those who succeeded in depriving us of our rights, trampled us under foot in the previous election in the person of M. Bourret will pass heavily next week for denying the rights of our nationality. They will not flee and we wish them good heart.

In the matter of M. Cantieny, found guilty at the last criminal court of this city of murdering police officer Laughin last summer, judge Koon refused Saturday to accept a motion of the guilty man's lawyer asking for a new trial. Consequently, the sentence was pronounced against Cantieny condemning him to seven years in prison which will have full effect. The prisoner was conducted to Stillwater last Monday

M. N. Egslerton, tailor of Minneapolis, was arrested Saturday in St Paul on the charge of bigamy.

We record with pleasure the following property sales made last week in this city by some of our compatriots:

M. F.X. Crepeau sold lots 9 and 10, block 29, the Crepeau addition for \$1200.

P.G. Lamoreau sold lot 19, block 9, second Baker addition for \$8000.

L.F. Allard sold lot 7, block 10, in the Moter Line addition for \$1300.

Translator's Note

The April 1, 1885 issue of The Echo had several articles about the recent uprising in the Northwest Territories of Canada led by a Metis, Louis Riel. He started one in 1869, for which he was exiled to the US, and his father had organized one in 1849. The present issue illustrates the fear of many Metis of Western Canada regarding the potential loss of their land claims and rights through coming incorporation into the Dominion.

From about 1850, the French had become a minority in Canada. In 1867 a Canadian Confederation was formed to include Quebec and be taken into the British Commonwealth.

Editor's Introduction

We reproduce below as published in the Evening Journal of this city last Thursday the fanciful assessment here about Riel and the causes of the present insurrection of Metis and Indians of Northwest Canada. [This article appears as written, in English]

"I regard Riel," said Mr. J.H. Hubbard, of Winnipeg, in the city today, "as a man of very little ability, but he has been kept up by the same influences that led to his former rebellion. He is looked up to by many of the full breeds, as we call them there, as a leader, and it is to work these through is influence, that Riel is made a toll by the same parties who controlled him in his other outbreak. I assure you, that certain religious powers are at the bottom of the whole trouble. Riel is made the tool of the church potentates, who expect to gain certain measures by the course Riel is pursuing. But he cannot be successful. His act is more suicidal to himself than the first rebellion. The country he has taken a stand in is against success. Prince Albert is an out-of-the-way place, with no country to fall back on, and so situated that he cannot cross to the American frontier. The outbreak cannot be otherwise than short lived."

Evidently, Mr. J.H. Hubbard of Winnipeg, visiting Minneapolis last week, has a very strong francophobe, he wants to chew Riel at all costs and plant injurious doubts about the religious authorities of the Northwest by placing them as the inspiration of Riel, the instigators of the present troubles for interesting purposes.

We reckon that Mr. Hubbard is wrong in both cases at that he fails peculiarly on the intentions of "the church potentates" of the Northwest. Where are the proofs of these advances? He has given none; it is because he has none. More than that, arriving from Winnipeg, he supposedly knew both Riel and "the church potentates" about whom he speaks, he was supposed to know that Riel is deprived of capacity, talent and merit and that "the church potentates" in question have or ever had intentions and perverse, anti-national which he ascribed to from improperly in a newspaper of this city.

As for the connivance of the religious authorities with Riel in the present insurrection, no longer ago than last Sunday, the telegraph carried the energetic protestations of his Grace the Archbishop Tache, of St. Boniface, against the insidious insinuations of correspondents of the J.H. Hubbard type.

Is this not proof of the base partiality and the greater blind ignorance to, assert now that it is these same religious authorities of 1869 and 1870, are today troublemakers in the Northwest?

As for Riel, he has already proved to the English that he is not, as Mr. Hubbard says, "a man of very little ability". We would love to see Mr. Hubbard face-to-face with Riel in the place of the insurrection, perhaps he'll find the occasion to change his sentiments about the ability of the chief of the Metis. If Riel were really "of very little ability" the government of Ontario would not have put a price on his head after the insurrection of Fort Gary, Winnipeg, in 1869-70. As well, would the government of Canada have condemned him to ten years exile after that insurrection?

No. Riel is not a man worthy of the scorn that his enemies increasingly deliver to diminish him and weaken the cause he defends today. We do not assert by that to approve the uprising of the Metis not pleasing to God, nor to justify the means Riel takes to obtain the settlement of the concern for one doesn't cure a social ill with a larger social ill, but we want to show that Riel is greater than his enemies who are tracking him everywhere like a wild animal since 1870 and will mark his name in the history of his country as the emblem of heroism and love of country. We know he will be judged severely in connection with the present insurrection which unfortunately threatens to become more serious and pressured in all

manner of ways by the powerful Hudson's Bay Company. A general uprising occurred in 1849; another Riel was at their head, the father of present day Louis Riel. They forced then, their oppressors to grant them the commercial freedom which had always been refused them. That first uprising was heard all the way to the English parliament where sympathetic voices advocated the legitimacy of their cause and obtain their justice.

We learn with pleasure that M. Edmond Beaupre has again joined as clerk in the service of M. Hall, the popular merchant of tea, etc. at City Market, generally know as Hall The T. Man. M. Beaupre is well known to the Canadian public and has a right to count on the benevolent patronage of his compatriots..

The Literary Club of Young French Canadians of Minneapolis

The next meeting will be 3 April at the usual place. The club which from its beginning seemed to have numerous difficulties stays strong and today maintains the high standard of the program it embraced. The Wednesday meeting promises to be very interesting given that there will be discussion, singing and declamation, etc. All the members and friends of said Club are cordially invited to be present.

A.J. Vinet, Secretary

Deceased

We regret to announce the death of Aurelie Fleurie, wife of M. Pierre Gauvreau on 26 March. Madam Gauvreau was 37 years old. She succumbed to a cruel illness of four months. The consolations of religion eased her suffering and the anguish of her final hour of departure to a better world. She leaves to morn her loss eight children and an inconsolable husband. The funeral took place last Sunday afternoon at Notre Dame de Lourdes.

At the Church

A young girl espoused to an old man - for his fortune, of course. "How bent over he is" said someone speaking of the man. "That" responded his neighbor "is to make it a marriage ... of inclination".

To Rent

For rent, sale or exchange for property in St. Paul or Minneapolis, two fine stores at the corner of Fourth and Churchill in Stillwater, presently occupied by the meat market of Joseph Papineau and the grocery of E.G. Lemoine.

Trouble in the Northwest

For eight days the insurrection of the Metis and Indians of the Northwest has taken on a character more alarming for the power of Canada. It is said that (Louis) Riel is well armed and at the head of a strong contingent of Metis and Indian warriors. The insurrection widens every day and threatens to become general among the native tribes and blood has already flowed, a fort has been taken by the insurgents, Fort Carlton in Saskatchewan. The excitement is intense throughout Canada, especially in Winnipeg. The military authorities are on the alert and hastily organizing the defense. Several thousand regulars have already gone to Fort Qu'Appel under the command of General Middleton and every day new detachments are sent west. We await an engagement soon with Riel's forces.

The latest news arrived at Ottawa yesterday, announcing the savages intoned their war chant and assembled to the insurrection.

The authorities of the railroad, The Canadian Pacific, have organized a battalion of 500 men composed of company employees to protect their property at different stations in the neighborhood of the forces of Riel.

Lord Melgund

Lord Melgund, Secretary to Lord Landsdowne, Governor General of Canada, passed through the city last Sunday en route to Manitoba. He turned to the siege, by order of the Canadian government, against the Metis insurrection. If we are to believe the accounts of the reporters for the American journals who had the favor of an interview, the noble Lord has no grave apprehension on the subject of the impasse in which England finds itself in the Sudan, the Indies and the Canadian Northwest. All are no more than minor matters and, in sum, the English lion has nothing to fear. Alas ... so much the better.
{Translator's note: In January, 1885, Khastum in the Sudan fell to the Mahdie empire. The defending Anglo-Egyptian force including General Gordon were killed or captured into slavery.
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News from Canada – Quebec

It is noted that in one month 100 Canadian families from diverse districts of the province left for the US, Northwest and the Pacific Coast. A regrettable fact is that most of these Canadians preferred the US, mostly Illinois and Wisconsin. The agents inform us that a number of other families intend to leave soon.

Sir John A. MacDonald has expressed his conviction that the urban terrorists ("les dynamitards cosmopolites") were the authors of the attacks on the Parliament of Quebec last summer. The fact is that they feared them to be the malfeasants at the time. In Ottawa, the parliamentary buildings are prepared; guarded, the police are on foot day and night and all those who enter, especially with packages, are observed. The surveillance is more strict than ever such that it is practically closed at the beginning of the session. Evidently, the authorities have serious information and are not at all reassured.

M. Riel and the Metis (From "Le Manitob" of March 10)

From dispatches from Prince-Albert transmitted to journalists in Winnipeg, we carry the news, sensational news, that Monsieur Riel, at the head of the Metis of his district are preparing an uprising to which will be added participating Indian ("Savages"). The English population, they say, asks for arms to defend in case of attack.

If this news isn't of the nature to cause an immense injury to our country by making us believe we are in a constant state of rebellion, we aren't paying attention. But like foreign journalists who rush to report the preceding, we believe it our duty to say it is no trouble to apprehend the Metis of the Northwest. It is true these exist among them malcontents, who are in most cases there for legitimate reason, but the federal government occupies itself seriously with the cause of their complaints in promising to remedy them as quickly as possible.

Now that there is some agitation, assemblies, even violent discourse, the solution is possible. Some individuals believe they can't obtain justice unless they shout, plead and lament. That's their way. But, from there to a rebellion, that's too far. The thing was so beyond ridicule that it is impossible to believe that we friends of Lower Canada wouldn't have the least idea of compromising on that point, in sending advice for those who ought to know better.