

122-126      After remaining at Standing Rock Agency until June, 1884, I was transferred as farmer-in-charge to the newly created Turtle Mountain Chippewa Indian reservation. Familiar with the Indians as far north as Hudson's Bay, I was subsequently appointed, after other men had failed, assistant agent on the same reservation, but under Major John W. Cramsie, the Indian agent at Devil's Lake, whose jurisdiction included the Turtle Mountain Chippewa reservation.

Both the Red River half-breeds and the Chippewas, who belonged to the Canadian jurisdiction, were on the reservation claiming maintenance from the United States government. I made an enrolment of the Indians entitled to rations and other supplies from the United States, in which I excluded the half-breeds and the Chippewas. After I had prepared the enrolment another man was sent to relieve me.

The Riel rebellion, of which Louis Riel was the head and Gabriel Dumont the military leader, was menacing the Canadian government at that time. My successor found a dead man between St. John, Dakota territory, and the Canadian line. Knowing of the rebellion and the attendant disorder, he turned back without so much as looking at my enrolment. Another man was sent out, but he too after making a few inquiries, abandoned the work. It looked as if the rebellion would spread to the international border and I was recalled as assistant agent, a position I held for four more years.

The seat of the rebellion was in the vicinity of Duck Lake, about 120 or 130 miles northwest of Winnipeg. The Canadians complained to the English ambassador at Washington that Indians from the United States were assisting the rebels. The ambassador laid the case before the Secretary of State. The Secretary of the Interior thereupon directed me to investigate the complains and ascertain if they had any merits.

About this time Aaron Wells, my brother, who had replaced me as assistant farmer on the Standing Rock reservation, was shown a letter by Sitting Bull, who asked him to read it for him. The letter was from Gabriel Dumont, the rebel military leader. It requested Sitting Bull to secure a pass for the Rees and the Gros Ventres permitting them to cross the border and assist in the rebellion. Aaron told Sitting Bull