

At the time of the Sitting Bull affair the Northwest Indians and Halfbreeds were in great distress owing to the sudden and catastrophic disappearance of the buffalo herds. By the way, Le Gare himself believed that the migratory herds had been systematically and deliberately annihilated as an incident to the American effort to compel the Indians to submit to concentration in reservations. At all events the elusive Sioux when they came to Canada helped to complete the destruction of the chief source of livelihood of the Indian and Halfbreed population and there was much hunger and misery. On the whole the Sioux were remarkably well treated but the local authorities were pretty well at their wits' end to know what to do with the hungry foreigners. Le Gare said that he could not sit back and watch them starve and that for three months or so he maintained about four hundred of them at his own charges. Reckoning these meagre rations at ten cents per diem the trader told me it cost him about forty dollars a day. No doubt he expected to be generously re-imbursed by Uncle Sam. Of course his liberality gave him great influence with Sitting Bull, who often came to his store to talk his troubles over with the sympathetic Frenchman. Le Gare took advantage of these conferences repeatedly to urge upon Sitting Bull the wisdom and indeed the necessity of surrender. At last Sitting Bull one day yielded the point and told Le Gare that he was ready to give up. Le Gare immediately notified the authorities and officialdom promptly corralled all the credit.

It is ten years since I left Saskatchewan and in that time much good work has been done (I am told) in connection with the Provincial archives and it may be that by application to the provincial librarian you may be put in touch with other authentic sources of information not available when I wrote my History of Saskatchewan and the Old North West.

At that time the provincial library was out of commission as a result of the cyclone of 1912 so that I did most of my research work, so far as the study of documents and books is concerned, at Winnipeg, Toronto and Ottawa. The Commissioner of the Royal North West Mounted Police, Regina, gave me access to a complete set of police reports. Unbroken sets of these invaluable records are disgracefully scarce.

The Ottawa library was a good imitation of primeval chaos but there again the Dominion Archivist has done excellent work since the time of my delving. You will find the authorities very ready to give you any aid in their power. Whether for you present purposes a Canadian tour is worth the powder and shot is for you to decide.

I was also favored by loans from the Archiepiscopal library at Winnipeg.

One of the best sources regarding Gabriel Dumont is La Verite sur la question Metisse et le Recit du Dumont which I got from the Archbishop at Winnipeg but which is to be found at Ottawa and elsewhere though the book is rare. It is a semi-political document, published in Montreal in 1886, where a local lawyer and politician took notes of the personal story of Dumont. Unfortunately, the words of the amazing old fellow are edited into a type of French

Le Gare said to
look through
some in old
over his office

to here

Winnipeg