Correspondence regarding armed excursion of Indians and Half Breeds; 11-14-1849.
LAC, RG10, Reel C-13386.

Copy

Steamer "Gore," Lake Huron,
November 14th 1849.

My dear Sir,

Having had occasion to go to the Sault Ste Marie by the last trip of the Steamer "Gore," I was astonished on my arrival at that place to hear that the night before our arriving there, an armed party of Indians and half breeds, under the guidance of Mr. Allan Macdonald and his brother, assisted by a person of the name of Metcalfe from Montreal, had in the dead of night, started in two boats, one of which was stolen away from its moorings at the establishment of the Hon: Hudsons Bay Co., and the other taken from the American side of the river, with the avowed intention of taking forcible possession of the Location of the Quebec Mining Company at Mica Bay, Lake Superior, and the works and premises on it, and obliging the agent of that Company to abandon the place. As I found much excitement prevailing on both sides of the river in consequence of this extraordinary expedition I ascertained from some merchants at the place that a quantity of provisions and whiskey had been sold to Mr. Mc. Donald, as also a quantity of muskets and scalping knives and on further enquiry I learned that about

thirty

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thirty five Indians from the American side with their chief had joined the expedition, which is supposed to consist of one hundred men, halfbreed & Indians. I was also credibly informed that measures had been taken to incite the wild Indians of the head of Lake Superior to join in this expedition and that some of them were expected to join it at Nica Bay, so that it is impossible to say what will be the exact force which will present itself at that place. The Rev. Dr. O'Meara of Manitowaning, who arrived at the same place in the "Gore" on Missionary business to the Indians at the Sault & Garden river, and has been engaged for some days in making enquiries of them as to the cause, intention, and instigators of the expedition, has informed me that he had from them obtained abundant confirmation of the statements which I have made. As we deeply interested in the peace and security of the Province, and especially in the security of property on these Upper Lakes, and also from a desire to prevent the bloodshed which a repetition of proceedings will be likely to produce, I consider it to be my duty to inform you of the state of things in the Mining region as soon as possible and for that purpose have no hesitation in incurring the expense of sending a messenger to town with this, and beg to inform you that I have given orders that the "Gore" should not be

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be laid up till I have an answer to inform me whether she will be wanted for His Excellency's Government for any purpose connected with this intelligence. Dr. O'Meara informs me that he has written to Major Campbell, Civil Secretary, informing him of this expedition and of the results of his enquiries among the Indians concerning it.

I remain,
My dear Sir,
Yours truly,
Chas. Thompson.

To the Hon Robt. Baldwin,
Toronto

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