

# INDIANS THREATEN WAR 1911 AGAINST RAILROAD MEN

## Canadian Northern Construction Gang At Oka Stopped by Band of Forty Armed With Revolvers, Shotguns and Bludgeons — "Chief" Kennatosse Gabriel Their Leader—Threaten Serious Trouble if Their Land is Crossed.

Forty armed Indians on foot and on horseback have stopped the construction force of the Canadian Northern Railway from completing the line, which from St. Eustache is to gradually move towards Montreal. This line is to cross for a very small distance, the lands of the Gentleman of the Seminary, who are holding the greater part of the country around Oka Village.

Mr. Guy Toombs, the head of the Canadian Northern here, has not official news of the matter, probably because the chief of construction has his headquarters in Toronto.

There is a gap of some four hundred yards to be bridged over to make the line as far as St. Eustache a continuous one, and this is the particular part of the road to which the Indians object. They claim it will infringe on lands to which they have a right ceded to them by the ancient kings of France, a right which prevents any white man from trespassing.

Led by Kennatosse,

The Indians concerned are members of the Iroquois tribe, the Algonquins at Oka, taking no part in the dispute. The leader of the objectors is Joe Kennatosse Gabriel, who for the last seven years has made things interesting around the Reservation of the Two Mountains.

Strangely enough Kennatosse, as he is familiarly called, sent a letter to The Star, also signed by Louis Rivers and Mitchell Martin, who call themselves chiefs, complaining of the

inroads which the Canadian Northern Railway was making on their Reservation, and avowing that "as long as the mountains stood and the rivers flowed," they would resist the invasion of the white men.

These three are not real chiefs as acknowledged by the Dominion Government, but have set themselves up as such according to the old tribal laws, and have the support of four or five score of the younger men of the reservation.

The two principal chiefs, elected according to the rules of the Indian Department at Ottawa, are Angus Corrinthe, and Peter Oak.

Heard the War Cry.

It appears that when the laborers connected with the railroad reached the spot, where the line is to encroach upon the property of the Gentlemen of the Seminary, who, it seems, had given permission for the line to cross, the band of forty Indians, headed by Joe Kennatosse Gabriel, warned them to desist.

Gabriel, who is a big man, was recognized. Witnesses say that there were at least forty braves armed with shotguns, revolvers and bludgeons, who with regular war cry accompaniment, informed the railroad laborers that they could proceed at their peril, as the property they were about to cross belonged to the Iroquois.

The navvies are said to have retired gracefully, till the heads of the division which has camps at St. Andrew's and St. Eustache, could be communicated with.

Are Ready for Fight.

These men, it is understood, have come to the conclusion that they were not going to be brow-beaten by a handful of Indians, and a serious conflict seems to be imminent.

This may take some days or weeks yet, as there is sufficient work to be done on other parts of the road.

Attempts were made to communicate by long distance telephone with Mr. Perillar, the Indian Agent of the Reservation, but word was received that he had gone to Ottawa, probably for the purpose of laying the matter before the Indian Department.

Chief Angus Corrinthe was communicated with, and all he would say was: "Do not pay any attention to Kennatosse Gabriel."

It is understood that the supporters of the lawful chiefs do not object to the progress of the Railroad.

*Oka Indian*

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## POWERS NOTIFY CHINA SHE MUST ARRANGE PEACE

*Six Nations Join*

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