

remained in office until 1876, but you did not renominate him, or Mr. Royal, or Mr. Delorme, a half-breed.

Mr. MILLS. They were residents of Manitoba.

Mr. GIROUARD. Why did not you nominate Mr. Breland who is not resident of Manitoba?

Mr. MILLS. We did.

Mr. GIROUARD. Not at that time. I will give you the date later on. I say this treatment of the people of the North-West was the subject of a great deal of complaint. The French population expected some attention from the Government. The old settlements of Qu'Appelle and St. Albert were important centres; the English settlement at Battleford and Prince Albert had considerably increased; the surrounding rural districts had been taken up by white settlers, who also thought they were entitled to some consideration. Affairs in the North-West attracted the attention of public men, and during the Session of 1878 they were the subject of a very interesting debate. It will be interesting to hear what were the opinions of the hon. member for Bothwell then.

Mr. MILLS. The hon. gentleman went last week to New Brunswick to find a member for that council.

Mr. GIROUARD. One member only. But I am going to show you that you took all the members for that council from Ontario, and its Governor from Prince Edward Island. The Hon. Mr. Langevin, now Sir Hector, called attention to this point. The debate took place on the 8th May, 1878:—

“ Mr. LANGEVIN said he wished to call the attention of hon. gentlemen opposite to the action of the Government in the North-West Territories. When the organisation of government took place in Manitoba, the hon. gentlemen opposite found fault with the Government of the right hon. member for Kingston, for the manner in which that was organised. They accused the late Government of having acted without proper consideration of the wants of the Provinces, without having consulted its people, and of having sent up a ready-made government. The hon. the First Minister said, in his speech at Kingston, of the 27th June, speaking of the right hon. member for Kingston:

“ He sent out Mr. Wm. Macdougall with a ready-made Cabinet to take possession, as if they had been the conquerors of the land, without asking the people what their opinions were as to the mode or nature of the authority under which they were to be placed.”

This was the opinion of the hon. the First Minister, and also of the hon. the Minister of the Interior. Before going further, he would state he did not admit the justice of this criticism. The late Government did not send a ready-made Government to the North-West. They sent a Governor and two officers, who were, in connection with other gentlemen, taken from that region, and who had the confidence of the people to form a Cabinet. It was natural that the hon. gentleman, in order to make a strong case before the electors of Ontario should have used the words already quoted; but, at all events, the hon. gentleman, after having found fault with the action of the late Government, should have done better. Let us see how the hon. gentleman and his Government acted towards that country. They appointed, as Lieutenant Governor, the Hon. Mr. Laird, one of their friends, who had been formerly Minister of the Interior, and had dealt with matters connected with the North-West, and whom they had a right, therefore, to send there. But whom did they select as members of the Executive Council of that Territory? Colonel Macleod was appointed at the head of the police and also Stipendiary Magistrate. Colonel Macleod did not possess the confidence of the people.

“ Mr. MILLS. Who were they? Indians?

“ Mr. LANGEVIN. Indians and half-breeds were people. He wondered would the hon. gentleman feel as he did, were he in Manitoba amongst those people. They were not to be despised although they were Indians. Mr. Mathew Ryan, lawyer from Montreal, was also appointed Stipendiary Magistrate, and was made also a member of the Executive Council; the next was Mr. Richardson. How were the officers selected for this territory? Mr. Scott, a gentleman from this part of the country, was appointed registrar; hon. Mr. St. John of Toronto was appointed sheriff; Mr. Dickson was sent there as an accountant and inspector; Captain McDonald was sent as Indian agent. This was the Government which had sent there, to use the language of the hon. the First Minister, “ a ready-made cabinet to take possession, as if they had been conquerors of the land.” The people not very unnaturally, objected to being presented with this ready-made cabinet. The hon. gentleman could not say that in the Territories or in Manitoba, they could not find a few members of the people who could help in governing that country and who would have the confidence of the half-breeds. But what people had they to govern? Indians? There were Indians and a great many half-breeds and white men as well.

These people had been cast aside. The Government said: We will send a ready-made cabinet; we despise those people and will govern them as we choose. His Excellency the Governor General formed a very different opinion of these people, and he would refer the hon. the Premier and his colleagues to the remarks of His Excellency concerning these half-breeds. They were a sensitive, proud race, and should not have been deprived of their share in the government of the country. He remembered the time when his race was excluded from the government of the country, when none but people imported from the old country had a right to sit in the councils of the Province, and he could imagine the feelings of those half-breeds of the North-West when they saw that none but people from Ontario or Montreal or the Lower Provinces were to have office in their Government. These people had no representative in this House, and it was left to some one to see whether they should be left in that position, or whether they should have their share in the offices and in the Government in that Territory. A deputation of half-breeds had lately called on the Lieutenant Governor of the Province to claim representation in the councils of their country, and he hoped, since the attention of the Government had been called to this matter openly before Parliament, that they would recognise the justice of the claims.

“ Mr. MILLS said the hon. gentleman had made somewhat extraordinary speech. The hon. gentleman might not have considered the effect which his speech would have on the minds of the people of the North-West.”

They are very careful indeed to direct properly the mind of the people of the North-West.

“ The circumstances were wholly different which govern the action of the late Government and of the present one. The country which Mr. Laird and the other gentlemen were sent to govern had very few inhabitants except Indians. But the right hon. member for Kingston sent his Government to a country in which there were several thousand white people, a people from whom rulers had already been chosen, and who had formerly a Council and Government of their own. What was the position in the North-West? Did the hon. gentlemen pretend to say that the half-breeds were an educated population, who appointed their chief the same as the Indians did, who followed the buffalo from place to place, and had no fixed habitation? That was the impression the hon. gentleman seemed to wish to create. Yet he must know, if he gave any attention to the condition of things in that country, that the half-breed population, with the single exception of the few who resided in the vicinity of Prince Albert, were, in no respect, different in their modes and conditions of life from the Indians.”

The hon. gentleman interrupted me a moment ago to say that, at the time he constituted the North-West Council, he appointed a half-breed.

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Breland, and he is named in that speech.

Mr. GIROUARD. I say you did not; you appointed him in 1878.

Mr. MILLS. Yes.

Mr. GIROUARD. Then do not contradict me when I say you did not appoint any half-breed before 1878.

Mr. MILLS. That is what I said.

Mr. GIROUARD. I was going to give you the reason why you appointed one then.

Mr. MILLS. You said we did not appoint any.

Mr. GIROUARD. You did not in 1876, when you organised the council. It was constituted under Act of Parliament of 1875, but you waited one year before you would put that new constitution into operation, and yet, when you came to make the nominations to that council, not only was there not one half-breed in it or one in office under it, but there was not on it one single white-man living in that country; they were all taken from Ontario and even from around Ottawa here, like Mr. Scott, who was placed in the registry office there, and was a brother of one of the colleagues of the hon. gentleman. I have mentioned that there was a complaint. It was not only made in the House but also outside of it. Take the petition which was sent at the beginning of 1878, the petition of the half-breeds of St. Albert and also of the half-breeds of St. Laurent. One of their first grievances is that they have no representative in the institutions of their country.

“ The humble petition of the undersigned French Canadians and half-breeds of St. Albert in the North-West Territories.—Information having been given to them that a petition had been signed by the half-breeds of St. Laurent on the 1st February last, they also respectfully show.