

would certainly hurry up the settlement of their claims. Riel went into the settlements, I think, in the month of July, 1884. The agitation then commenced; it was an agitation limited within constitutional bounds; but the fact was disclosed during the trial at Regina, as well as by correspondence, that the agitators were chiefly white settlers, influenced whether by certain personal objects or certain political objects, it is difficult for me to state. The half-breeds themselves, by their nature and their own happy simplicity, desired to confine the agitation within constitutional limits. They had everything to lose otherwise. Everybody knows what has been said and written about the Prince Albert settlements. Several flourishing parishes had sprung up there within a few years. The farmers were in a happy condition, and most of them having emigrated from the Province of Manitoba, had carried with them money which they had realised from the sale of their property. These people could understand perfectly well what was likely to take place if the standard of rebellion should be raised. But, unfortunately, some further delays took place which aggravated the public feeling in that quarter, and led to events the character of which is known by every hon. member in this House. Now, on the 4th of March, 1885, Father André received a telegram from the Government informing him that the question was settled, that the half-breeds were to receive their scrip, and that their patents should issue as soon as they should comply with certain regulations. Everybody feels that this should have been sufficient to stop all agitation, if it had not been that the white settlers poisoned the minds of the half-breeds by stating to them that there was no authority in a telegram—that a telegram could easily be fabricated—if an old chief factor of the Hudson Bay Company, a man of great reputation and standing in that part of the country, Lawrence Clark, had not very imprudently asserted to Father André and several others that he knew very well what would be the answer to the last petition that was sent to Ottawa, and that the Metis, instead of receiving scrip would receive bullets, and instead of receiving patents would receive 500 soldiers. Well, these things must not be attributed to half-breeds, but to white men whose mission seemed to excite rebellion, and who would gain by it, and who did their best to poison the minds of these people and to prevent them giving any credence to that telegram. The rebellion took place a few days afterwards. It is not for me to refer to the fearful events that took place during the six weeks that elapsed between the 24th of March and the 13th of May. I can only say that nothing justified