

protection and patronage to every interest in the Province. There was nothing permitted to escape them. They assumed to correct and control the affairs of the Province, from the management of a school up to the enlargement of the boundaries of the Province to the Hudson Bay, from interference with the individual settler in the growing and selling of grain up to the shaping of the policy of the country in its relation to the Dominion. They constituted themselves a rival Parliament to the Local Legislature, and dictated terms alike to Mr. Norquay and to Sir John Macdonald. They did not deal in protests or remonstrances, but in demands. They took the whole country and its various interests under their protection, and with superb impudence fashioned them according to their own notions. In a word, they exercised the powers of the Local Government and demanded the liberty to exercise them. Such is the character of the institution that was then started, under the fallacious name of the Farmers' Union, by some designing politicians belonging to the opposite party. Now, in November, 1884 meetings were held to protest against the disallowance of railway charters, at which very violent and treasonable expressions were used. I will, with your permission, Sir, read something which will, no doubt, attract the attention of some hon. gentleman opposite. At a meeting held in Portage la Prairie, in 1882, of the delegates, a meeting which was reported to be very enthusiastic by the Opposition press, one gentleman having a seat in this House, was reported as having used the following language.—

"He thought that what was necessary was a Local Government, which would stand up for Manitoba, and if, after all had been tried, we could not get our rights, we must try a little of what some would call rebellion, or petition for annexation to the United States."

Another gentleman, who is a member of the Local House, said:

"The Lower Provinces were, to a great extent, dependent upon this Province to dispose of their superfluous manufactures, and we should say to them, that if they would not give us equal rights with themselves we would have nothing to do with them. He thought our duty was not to petition Mr. Norquay, but to send men into the Local Government who would stand manfully by Manitoba and insist on her rights."

That was the kind of language used by some persons who did not belong to the Conservative party, in the various meetings which took place in 1882, under the color and pretext of disallowance for railway charters. Later on, at a meeting of citizens in the council chamber at Brandon, in December, 1883, Mr. Purvis, one of the leading spirits in the Farmers' Union—

Mr. WATSON. And a Conservative.

Mr. ROYAL. He is not a Conservative.

Mr. WATSON. He has been one all his life.

Mr. ROYAL. Mr. Purvis said: "If we cannot obtain our rights, let us annex to the United States." In February last, a meeting was held of the Farmers' Union, at which that question was discussed, and subsequent to that another meeting was called, for the purpose of discussing independence. The time is not long since when the *Free Press* was stirring up the feelings of the people, and were it not for the sober sense of the people, the agitation would have resulted in a disruption of the Union. The *Free Press* is the recognised and, I must say, skillful organ of hon. gentlemen opposite, in Manitoba; there is no doubt about the activity, energy and enterprise displayed by the editor of that paper, and therefore I attach the most importance to its utterances. The *Free Press* said:

"The threats of Riel are not worth considering, in view of what we have to apprehend from the not less unscrupulous but vastly more powerful traitor who rules the Dominion. * * * It would be better a million fold that Riel and his descendants shall forever remain kings or presidents, or whatever they may choose to call themselves, of the North-West half-breeds, than that Sir John Macdonald should be permitted to proclaim himself and his friends perpetual rulers of Canada."

Mr. ROYAL.

The *Hamilton Spectator* has seen the motive which prompted the paragraphs and comments thereon as follows:—

"That is plain enough. And if it means anything, it means that whatever else may happen, it is of paramount importance that the Grit party should be again placed in power. To bring about the defeat of the present Government, and hoist the Grits into office, is the only thing worth working for. Riel may rebel, Indians may rise, men and children may be massacred, women may suffer worse than death, our citizen soldiers may be slain and mangled and maimed, the entire country, from the Saskatchewan to the Atlantic, may be plunged into grief and may mourn its dead—but what of it? In the language of the *Free Press*, 'it would be better a million fold' that these things should happen than that the Tories should remain in office—it is better a million fold that the murdering, the plundering, the maiming, the killing and the ravishing should go on, than that the greedy clutches of the Grits should be longer kept from the coveted money bags of the Dominion."

I do not charge the whole of the Opposition press and party with being directly responsible for the late insurrection, but were it not for the excitement they created in Manitoba the events of the Saskatchewan would not have taken place. These expressions of disloyalty, because by loyalty I mean devotion to the interests of the country and devotion to the prosperity and development of the country, these expressions of disloyalty are not only confined to the Opposite party in the Province of Ontario; the Liberal party in the Province of Quebec share in the same sentiments. I would not, of course, attribute anything in the insurrection that took place in the North-West last spring direct to the Liberal party of the Province of Quebec. I must say however, that, in disloyalty, they are not the least in sympathy with their colleagues of the Province of Ontario or the other Provinces. In the *Herald*, of the 27th May last, what do we find? We find that the Club National, which is the club *par excellence* of the hon. gentlemen opposite in the Province of Quebec, gave a banquet; that this banquet took place in the city of Montreal; at that banquet toasts were proposed and drunk and responded to, and amongst those toasts were two, one to the independence of Canada and the other to the Republic of Canada; and one of the speakers stated that he wished to God that Mr. Mercier, the leader of the Opposition in the Province of Quebec, might be the first President of that Republic. I believe there is a connection in things; there is something that breaks out, sooner or later, and shows the unanimity of principle and feeling in one party. I would not attribute to the Rouge party in Quebec the events that took place on the Saskatchewan; but in the feelings expressed in the Grit press of Manitoba, Ontario and elsewhere, their partisans in Quebec fully sympathise. The hour being very late, and my observations having been in the first place of a rather lengthy character, I shall dispense with citing extracts that I had intended to read to you. I now come to the end of my remarks. If, Sir, in the course of these remarks, I have succeeded in giving a fair idea of the origin of the first population of the North-West, which we met in going there, of their characteristics, of their high state of prosperity and contentment, of their situation, religious, political and social—if I have succeeded in impressing upon the House that the half-breed nation is not a semi-savage population, but is distinguished for humanity, courage, industry, intelligence and moral character, I will have accomplished much of my task. I have tried to trace the remote sources as well as the immediate sources of the troubles. However, we must not lose sight of the motion before the House. I have tried to show that the immediate cause of the troubles lies in the conduct, the language, and the doings of the Opposition party. I will not charge that party with being a disloyal party; I am willing to give them credit for what Mr. Mackenzie's Administration did from 1873 to 1878, and amongst the doings of that Administration I must pay a high tribute of admiration to the territorial organisation they have given to the North-West Territories. But, Sir, I stop there. I was a member