

versed the North-West in every direction from the Great Lakes to the Rocky Mountains and perhaps further, and that they were much better acquainted with the resources and possibilities of that territory than anyone else except perhaps the Hudson Bay officials, who had always kept their light religiously under a bushel. Also, that there was even then a redundant French population in Quebec seeking an outlet which they subsequently found in the New England States. Altogether it would have been in no way surprising if a great immigration movement should have taken place from Quebec to Manitoba. The wonder rather is that it did not.

REPORTER. Then you think that Mr. Macdougall was right in alleging that a plot had been formed on the part of some of his colleagues to exclude him and that the French clergy were privy to it?

SIR RICHARD. I think that was going too far. I do not believe there was any organized plot, or if there was that Sir George Cartier was a party to it. There had been outbreaks before, and this especial one in the first instance was provoked by the not unnatural suspicion on the part of the half-breeds that they would be deprived of the lands they occupied, and treated altogether much as they had seen their Indian relatives and friends treated in the adjoining states of the Union, and with a very little trouble they might at the outset have been pacified and reassured. But I do believe that the resident French clergy, who had naturally great influence with them, were aware that there was trouble brewing and did not bestir themselves much to allay it. And I more than suspect that neither they nor the majority of the French members of the cabinet were much pleased at the selection of Mr. Macdougall as the first Governor of Manitoba. The fact was that the situation in Quebec just then was peculiar. The French element in Parliament were acutely conscious that they were by no means as influential under Confederation as they had been in the old Parliament of the two Canadas. They considered that if two or three more provinces were added in the North-West they were in much danger of