

appeal was made to the Crown, which only confirmed the act of the New Brunswick Legislature. Riots ensued in that province, and were only quelled after much trouble, and some loss of life.

16. **Prince Edward Island** was admitted to the union in 1873. Its constitution has this peculiarity that its Legislative Council is elective. It has four members in the Senate and six in the House of Commons. The course pursued by the Dominion Government with reference to the Pacific Railway, up to this time, did not meet the full approval of the House of Commons. Surveys had been made of the several routes proposed, but the work of construction was not yet commenced. Two large companies were striving to obtain the contract for building the road. In the meantime a "general election" had been held for the House of Commons, and when that House met, early in this year, the charge was made against the government, that it had received money from one of the companies in order to influence the late elections. The inquiry into these grave charges took up a great part of the year, but before the Parliament could pass an opinion upon the report of the committee the pressure upon the ministry became so great, that the Premier, Sir John A. Macdonald, was obliged to resign. The Hon. Alexander Mackenzie was then called upon to form a ministry. The new Premier, in order to test public opinion in regard to what had taken place, asked the Governor-General to dissolve Parliament. The request was granted, and another general election held in January, 1874, which resulted in the return of a very large majority for the new ministry.

17. In this election Louis Riel was returned for a county in Manitoba, and, coming to Ottawa, took the oath of membership of the House of Commons. He