

have been stated here. If they were animated by any such sentiment as the hon. member has stated, why did they remain peaceable and law-abiding for ten or twelve years?

HON. MR. OGILVIE—The tribes were fighting each other.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—No country could be more peaceable than the North-West was until this spring. It is easier for the Government to send an army into that country now, when the Pacific Railway is nearly completed, than it would have been three or four years ago, and if the Metis had been prompted by a desire to keep that country for themselves it would have been much easier for them to fight Canada then, than it is to-day. It shows how little foundation there is for any such assertion. I ask why prejudice public opinion on this subject? This is something more than a question of pounds, shillings and pence; it is a question of life—a question of even more than that; it is one of the public good of this Dominion. There are men in this country who are not ready to believe all those charges that are made against the half-breeds. It is well known that in 1837 and 1838, when the officials of the Imperial Government went to the other side of the Atlantic, none of them confessed they were wrong. After having injured our country in many ways, they returned to England and raised the cry that we were wrong; that we were a people who could not be managed, and that they were right. But it was satisfactory to us to hear some years later, as I heard from a governor who was sent out here, that if England had known at the time how those Imperial officials had treated Lower Canada, there would have been no rebellion, because we would not have had any cause to complain. It is because I remember all these events that I now say, "let us wait; let us not prejudice public opinion." But if any one wishes to precipitate a discussion on the matter, I am ready to fight it out in my own way. But for the sake of our country, for the sake of peace and harmony, let the matter rest while our men are fighting and spilling the best blood of Canada in the west; let us admire, but let us also keep quiet; let us help them if we can to

terminate the insurrection, but let us do nothing more.

HON. MR. POWER—The other day when I made some reference to the disturbance in the North-West my hon. friend from DeLanaudiere rather chid me for introducing a subject here which might lead to a somewhat heated discussion. Now, I have the right to retaliate on the hon. gentleman. As I understand it, the question of the half-breed grievances is not before the House. The hon. gentleman who brought this matter before us did not deal with the half-breed question, but solely with the Indian question. Of course it is a cognate subject, and it is very hard for gentlemen to deal with the Indians without speaking of the half-breeds too. I do not know that I should have said anything about this subject had not the hon. gentleman who introduced it to the notice of the House taken occasion, as some members of the Senate so often do, to introduce party politics, and to read from the *Globe*; and his speech was to a certain extent a reply to the editorial comment in that newspaper on an address delivered by a Wesleyan clergyman. The hon. gentleman undertook to tell us, and the hon. member from Belleville (Mr. Flint) also undertook to tell us, that what they read from that reverend clergyman showed that the *Globe* report was wrong. I did not so understand it. If I caught the figures given by the hon. gentleman from Quinté as furnished to him in the letter of the Rev. Mr. Young, that gentleman stated that while some \$170,000 was expended in feeding the Indians and giving them necessities—

HON. MR. READ—No, the amount is \$170,000 in bounties.

HON. MR. POWER — \$170,000 in bounties, \$800,000 odd were expended for other purposes. That is pretty nearly the proportion of 5 to 25, and the statement in the *Globe* is not so far out of the way. Not knowing as much as the hon. gentleman from DeLanaudiere does about the merits of the difficulties between the Indians and the Government or their agents, I cannot undertake to say to say a great deal on the subject; but I shall say this, and I think it is something that must

HON. MR. BELLEROSE.