

political swindles of the very worst kind. According to our census returns Manitoba in 1871 had 25,000 inhabitants and British Columbia 36,000, of whom more than two-thirds were Indians. Yet one of these provinces was given four members and the other six. No more impudent violation of the fundamental principle of Confederation could well be conceived, and but for this Sir John would either have found himself in an absolute minority or too weak to carry on the government.

REPORTER. I thought Sir John had a fair majority in 1872?

SIR RICHARD. There were a certain number of members in that House on whose votes neither side could reckon with any certainty, but when I was delegated, with some others, to present a formal remonstrance to Lord Dufferin against proroguing Parliament in August, 1873, some 93 members attached their names to the document out of a total of some 197. None of these could have been ranked as regular supporters of the Government, though several of them would have objected to be classed as members of the Opposition. Apart from Manitoba and British Columbia, Sir John was not in a position to control the House. One thing is certain: Had the elections throughout the Dominion been brought on at that time in one day, as was done afterwards, and had these two provinces been allotted their fair share of the representation, not all Sir Hugh Allan's money would have saved Sir John A. Macdonald in 1872. The power he then possessed of bringing on the several elections at different dates to suit himself enabled him to secure several seats he could not have gained otherwise. But he fought his opponents with loaded dice.

REPORTER. Could not the injustice he committed in giving such an undue representation to Manitoba and British Columbia have been used against him in the contest?

SIR RICHARD. Some use was made of it, but to nothing like the extent it ought. For myself, I may observe that in 1872 I was still on the cross benches and did not take