

had he lived on the banks of the Saskatchewan, he, too, would have shouldered his musket in the half-breed cause. Honore Mercier, a Quebec leader, was the apostle of the cause of Riel and today his memory is revered in Quebec solely on that account.

This is simply evidence of the persistence of the ideal of Papineau, of whose school so many today declare themselves adherents. But why should men like Riel be exempt from the consequences of their crimes, or hallucinations, if you please, merely on account of their race?

Sir Wilfrid would not echo some of the extreme sentiments expressed in Quebec today. He is too enlightened a publicist and too learned historically. He does, however, believe in Canadian independence. A careful study of his earlier writings and speeches, coupled with the logical trend of his policy in all matters pertaining to Imperial relations in later life, can lead to no other conclusion, although in many of his utterances in respect of Great Britain, he has to some extent camouflaged, to use, not in an offensive way, a term lately in fashion and certainly useful in conveying meaning. It is not for his views on independence he is to be censured. There are prominent English-speaking Canadians who share these with him, though we should admire him to a greater degree for taking a more direct road towards his goal. We do blame, him, however, for not exercising a more tempering influence over those who, openly declaring him as their leader, are proclaiming sentiments not unlike those he did in his younger days, only much more extreme. Essentially the representative of his race in public life and the hero of his people, with his maturer years and his greater wisdom, he has not lifted his little finger in the way of warning or advice. Practically his only counsel to them has been that no "overt act" be committed. Of course, Sir Wilfrid is in politics and in Quebec lies the greatest source of his power, but he would have been accorded a much greater place in our history had he turned aside from the allurements of high office based on