

we know that there is agitation and difficulty there; we know that many things which a year ago we pointed out, which for several years we have been pointing out, would tend to create discontent in that country, are creating trouble and discontent, and that no word is said to the task which is to devolve upon this Parliament of considering these great questions, and of taking care that so far as they may be remediable the causes of that discontent may be remedied. Hon. gentlemen may say, no; it is nothing, it is merely a tempest in a teapot; it is something that is not serious. But I observe the Prime Minister of that Province a friend of hon. gentlemen opposite, only the other day, at one of the banquets that are given to Members of Parliament in Winnipeg, and of one of which I believe the hon. Member for Provencher (Mr. Royal) was the fortunate recipient, followed immediately afterwards by a banquet, participated in by the hon. member for Wellington—I observed so late as the 9th of January the Prime Minister of the Province is reported to have said:

"At present we are on the verge of a crisis from which we must emerge in a better or worse condition. Not, however, until the masses were made aware of the situation would they stand up and maintain their rights. The time had arrived when Manitoba must be placed on a level with the other Province of the Dominion."

He referred to the cry that Manitoba was petted and pampered, and said:

"Not one new arrival had been in the Province three months before he, who before was loud in its denunciations, was equally loud in demanding its rights. The eyes of the farmers had been opened, and they were alarmed at the prospect. These matters would shortly engross the attention, not only of the Provincial, but of the Dominion Parliament."

That is the statement which the First Minister made at a recent period in reference to the condition of that

country, but of it we have heard no word, either in the Speech delivered to us or in the observations of the hon. gentlemen who have indicated the general run of the discussion for this Session. Now, we know that the policy of the administration in that country—one particular part of their administrative policy—could not be effectively criticised during last Session for the reason that the papers which were demanded were not brought down. I refer to the papers connected with the

#### CLOSING OF LAND IN SOUTHERN MANITOBA.

They were asked for, and the order was promised, but they have not reached the House, and by consequence, it was impossible to engage in a discussion upon that subject. It is enough to say that that order has been reversed, and that at a very late period the policy which had dictated, most improperly and wrongly, the closing of southern Manitoba to settlement, has been changed. I have observed that the ordinary sources of information on the part of newspapers which support the Government have praised each of these transactions. When southern Manitoba and the mile belt were closed, it was a wise and statesman-like thing. When it was attempted to sell, by public auction, these lands, that also was a wise statesman-like and a proper thing. But when the policy for closing was reversed, when the policy of selling was reversed, and when once again they were opened, that was the wisest and most patriotic, the most sensible thing of all. Well, I believe it was. But it seems to me hon. gentlemen are easily satisfied if, with all these various policies in the course of a short few months, they are equally placed as each one is presented. Sir, the policy did not last a long time, but it lasted long enough to do a great deal of harm. There

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