

Indian he could trust was a dead Indian, and was of the opinion that they would probably shoot one another; but I cannot think that, feeling in his heart there would be an uprising some day, he gave arms into the hands of these ignorant people for the purpose of slaughtering the white population. Before I close, I desire to add some further evidence which disproves the allegation that the uprising was due to maladministration on the part of the Government. I know that any statement favorable to the Government, will not be palatable to hon. gentleman opposite; I know that for over three months they have been studying the Blue Books, seeking to prejudice their own minds, seeking to convince themselves that they are right and the Government wrong. I do not blame them for, maddened by partisanship and ambition, they knew not, cared not, what they did; they are prejudiced, and when a man has strong prejudices it is difficult to remove them, particularly when he has an object in view in having them. Hon. gentlemen opposite talk about starving Indians, about the want of surveys, and about the poor half-breeds. What does Louis Riel say now, when, being in prison, he professes give the true reason for the uprising. He says, in a letter dated June 15th inst, addressed to Mr. Fiset, formerly a member of this House:

"Times were hard in the Saskatchewan country especially. There was no work; there was no money. The crops had failed, as you may have seen by newspaper reports. Merchants were embarrassed, or half ruined, or brought to the verge of ruin, and knew not what to do. They plotted together to bring in all the Mounted Police they could."

Riel was the leader of that rebellion, the preacher of peace and harmony, who, going there in the interest of peace and harmony, saw his opportunity. He says there was considerable trouble in the North-West; but instead of trying amicably to settle the case, he went to the friends of hon. gentlemen opposite, the starving Indians, and tried to mislead them, convincing Poundmaker and Big Bear that they were ill-treated in being deprived of their lands—lands on which they would not settle, and which they were not disposed to value, and a country becoming distasteful, because the buffalo had disappeared. The hon. gentleman knows that some years ago, in this House, hon. members from Manitoba brought before the Mackenzie Administration the fact that the buffalo were being slaughtered at the rate of 160,000 each season, and predicted trouble in the North-West in consequence. Did that Government take up this question and deal with it, as an honest, active Administration would have done? No; turning to the report of 1877, in the *Official Debates* of the House, we find that the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills), and other members supporting him, held that the matter had better be left to the Local Government or the North-West council—that despised North-West council, that hon. gentlemen opposite have since scoffed at and defamed. To that irresponsible body, when in power, hon. gentlemen opposite were willing to leave every question of vital importance to the North-West. I have said I would be as brief as possible, but the statements made by Louis Riel led me to refer to the question I have just alluded to, and leads me now to ask hon. gentlemen opposite whether their policy with regard to Canada has not worked danger, tribulation and disaster to the North-West. Has one of them a good word to say for the North-West? They have thrown the challenge across the House, daring us to prove that they decry their country. I offered the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton), when he challenged us to produce the proof—I offered it to him and asked him to insert it in his speech, so that the antidote should go with the poison; but he would not consent to the proposition, preferring party interests to patriotic honesty. I hold in my hand the proof, and propose to give it to the House. I firmly and sincerely believe that if hon. gentlemen opposite had been patriotic—and I do not use the word patriotic in its hackneyed sense—had these

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hon. gentlemen, who were Ministers of the Crown at one time, not been convinced that this country had done them an injustice in driving them out of power, and endeavored to get even with the people, endeavored to be revenged on the country, and had they adopted a policy such as that which was followed by hon. gentlemen on this side, when in Opposition, and assisted the Government in developing this country, and founding on the continent a second empire, peopled by British subjects, German, English, Irish, Scotch and French, vieing with one another in allegiance to their country and fealty to one of the best women and the best queen the world has ever known, we would have seen an intelligent and happy people throughout the Dominion; we would not have seen the oceans of blood that the hon. member for Huron (Mr. Cameron) speaks of, but many a happier household than is in Canada to-day. We would not have seen troops moving from Halifax, Winnipeg, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Quebec, brought together—for what object? The object of shooting down their brothers. There was the poison that, when circulated, worked misery to this country and jeopardised the union, which every man to-day, since that occurrence, would shed the last drop of his blood to maintain. Sir, the rebel thought is foster father to the rebel deed and those who, even silently on by insinuation, encourage or justify armed resistance to legal authority, do violence to constitutional principles and outrage the sacred rights of national autonomy. Mr. Speaker, demagogues promise, statesmen perform, and I leave to this House the duty of declaring which party professed and promised and which professed and performed. Not only in Canada, not only within the walls of this House, but throughout Great Britain, hon. gentlemen opposite and those who sympathise with them, and those who are their paid agents, those who receive money from the Ontario Government, have done their utmost to injure the country, to prevent capital flowing into the North West. I propose to establish, from the utterances of hon. gentlemen opposite, that there is a class of people in the country prepared, for the sake of office, to trample over the very ruins of their country and to wade through what the hon. member for West Huron calls oceans of blood, to the Treasury benches. I was in England two years ago, and the first man I met, a leading representative of an important institution, said: "You know it is very wrong for your public men to talk the way they do; they are infinitely damaging their country." I asked him what he referred to, and he said: "I can give you a pamphlet containing a lecture delivered by Mr. Fleming, the well known land agent for the Union Pacific Railway, and he there draws his conclusions, not from his own inner consciousness—there is no romance about it—and he says to the people, as he passes through the country: "I will not tell you what I think about it myself, because you might not believe me, you might think that I have some interest in it, but I will quote the Canadian papers to show you the desperate condition in which Canada is," and in consequence of which Canada is losing thousands and thousands of men who would go to that country, and who would represent millions of dollars. I procured one of those pamphlets. It is called "farming and stock-raising in America," and it commences with most thoughtful and kindly criticisms of Canada, but—there was always that "but" in the way—but what did the Canadian papers say? He then quotes, line by line, word by word, and sentence by sentence, from the *Toronto Globe*, to show that there is a vast exodus going on from this country.

Mr. MILLS. Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKINTOSH. The hon. member says, "hear, hear." I undertake to say he cannot prove it. I challenge hon. gentlemen opposite now, and I say I will prove by their