

from Archbishop Taché to hon. Mr. Howe, from which I read an extract:

Yet in face of these facts, hon. gentlemen opposite have, since 1871, endeavored to prejudice the electors throughout Ontario. I had some experience in the election of 1871, and remember that in many counties there were placards circulated—"Vote for the Conservative candidate and the murderer of Thomas Scott." They endeavored to appeal to people of a certain nationality and of a certain denomination throughout the Dominion, and endeavored to excite religious prejudices. But to-day we see the hon. gentleman (Mr. Blake) rejoicing over the fact that he is here to fight and defend the half-breeds and champion their rights. Before passing on to that matter, I wish to show upon what grounds the amnesty was granted; upon what flimsy basis and evidence hon. gentlemen opposite were prepared to actually decide a question which they said was one of the most vital importance not only to Ontario, but to every man who lived under constitutional government. Amnesty was granted to Riel and Lépine in 1875, and hon. gentlemen opposite deliberately went to work to suppress in the citation, a large portion of the evidence. The hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) smiles; but he will have an opportunity of showing whether I am correct or not. In the records of Parliament, what do we find? When the hon. member for North Huron (Mr. Farrow) introduced a resolution asking the then Government to put on record the evidence given before the committee, the Opposition voted in a body against the evidence being attached to the resolution. Let me read these documents from the evidence before the North-West Committee in 1874, Archbishop Taché stated that:

" * * * On the 25th November the Hon. Mr. Letellier, in his office, said to Bishop Tache, 'I think (or I hope) that we shall be able to give the amnesty to our Lower Canadian friends as a New Year's gift.' That on the 30th November, Bishop Tache saw the Hon. Mr. Dorion and the Hon. Mr. Letellier, and in his evidence said:—'I was led to believe that they themselves had some guarantees about it (the amnesty). They were not explicit, but I was led to believe it. It was something to the effect that there was an agreement with their colleagues as to the granting of the amnesty. The words as near as I can say were these: 'We cannot settle everything. It is so soon after the formation of the Government. We have hopes that the thing will be arranged in a favorable way according to your wishes; and we see ourselves the necessity of the amnesty.' I remember no further words."

Then followed further telegrams:

"FORT GARRY, 24th December, 1873.

"To the Hon. A. A. DORION, Ottawa.

"Anxious hearing from you. Is communication received. Lépine bailed yesterday.

"ARCHBISHOP TACHE."

"MONTREAL, December 25th, 1873.

"To ARCHBISHOP TACHE.

"I received the gratifying intelligence contained in your telegram. Matters here are progressing slowly but most satisfactorily. In a few days I will write result and about some important questions.

"A. A. DORION."

"OTTAWA, 2nd January, 1874.

"General election immediate. Governor Morris will communicate with you. Of paramount importance for friends to comply with his request. Answer by telegraph.

"J. C. TACHE."

"OTTAWA, January 2nd, 1874.

"To ALEXANDER MORRIS, Fort Garry, Manitoba.

"Will you communicate confidentially to Bishop Tache that I am particularly desirous in the interest of his people, in order to avoid excitement, that Riel should not be a candidate.

"A. A. DORION."

It was well enough according to hon. gentleman, when order was restored, when the Crown was able to maintain its rights, when there were safeguards surrounding the constitution of that country for a Minister of Justice, in order to avoid excitement, and in the interest of peace and harmony, to amnesty Riel; but it was very wrong on the part of the right hon. gentleman who leads this

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Government, and who led the Government at that time, in 1871, to take the advice of Archbishop Taché, who hon. gentlemen opposite now speak of as in every way reliable, and whose word should always be accepted. It was quite right that Mr. A. A. Dorion should have so acted, but it was a damnable crime, a fearful offence, on the part of the right hon. gentleman, when the North-West was in danger, when a Fenian invasion had just closed, when Governor Archibald did not know at what hour more trouble might arise, when such a long distance intervened between Ottawa and the North-West, and there was no ready means of communication, to have taken the advice of Archbishop Taché and have endeavored to get Riel and Lépine to leave the country for a time until order was restored. The right hon. gentleman has been charged in this connection with saying, "Would that I could catch Riel." Was there anything inconsistent in that expression?

Mr. BLAKE. He was in the country.

Mr. MILLS. He was paid to go out.

Mr. MACKINTOSH. I will reply to that point presently. Riel was supposed to be out of the country, and the right hon. gentleman said he would like to catch him. In what connection was that speech delivered? It was in reply to a speech made a few days before by the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake), in which he had said that, thank God, the offer of the reward that had been made by the Local Government had been the means of chasing Riel out of the country. The right hon. gentleman's statement was simply this: that, "owing to the reward he had offered, Riel no longer polluted the soil of Canada by his presence." Now, with respect to this matter of Riel being out of the country, and paid to stay away during the elections; Riel was in the country in June, 1872. If the right hon. gentleman paid Riel and Lépine \$1,000, \$2,000 or \$4,000, part of it contributed by Hon. D. A. Smith and Governor Archibald to induce them to leave the country for any particular time, how was it that Archbishop Taché had an interview with Riel in June? He swore to this, and Archbishop Taché is a most distinguished prelate whose word would be accepted by anyone. Archbishop Taché said he had an interview with him. Riel and Lépine had received about \$3,200. I will now account for \$3,500. In the first place the leader of the Government had nothing whatever to do with the payment of that money; he did not know the money was being paid; he had no cognisance of Archbishop Taché having recommended its payment or that Hon. D. A. Smith had promised to help to pay it, he being anxious to protect the interests of the Hudson's Bay Company. We turn again to the records of the party opposite. We turn to the remarks of the leader of the Opposition and we there find the reason for the money being paid. I do not find that the hon. gentleman, from his place in this House, when he occupied a seat adjacent to where the First Minister now sits, condemned the payment of the money; for he said it would be a gross breach of faith if the interests of the country were not protected, and if any promise made in any way by an officer of the Crown holding a position like that occupied by Governor Archibald were in the least degree questioned. We find that the payment of £600 sterling was voted to D. A. Smith on 1st April, 1875, an appropriate date. Some hon. members objected to the item. The hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) said, no doubt it was a very unpopular vote, but it was also a just one. The hon. gentleman was then in power.

Mr. BLAKE. No; I was not in office.

Mr. MACKINTOSH. I do not mean that the hon. gentleman was a member of the Government, because it would be a difficult task to state precisely when he was or was not a member of the Government; but the hon. gentleman's party was in power, and he was virtually the Premier, the dictator; and perhaps he would have made a very good