

Bill will provide that the standard of the barrel will be the same as the present flour barrel.

Mr. BLAKE. In reply to the hon. gentleman I would venture to say in the first place that my observations were not at all confined to him. I would say in the second place that he has made some observations with reference to myself; he has compared myself with him. I do not feel myself worthy of the comparison, I am sure, in any respect in which I think we are proper to be compared. The hon. gentleman says he has always been true to his party. He need not have told us that; our memories are not so short that we cannot remember the incidents which took place last Session quite well, when the hon. gentleman retired from the position in which he now sits—retired from his seat and took a desk in the rear. We remember quite well that concurrently with that, when the hon. gentleman in his occupation of his seat in the Chamber, thought that in his public duty he had some observations to make before the Canadian Pacific Railway resolutions were disposed of. We remember that he called for an adjournment, in order that that might be done, when—not his colleague of the moment, nor perhaps his leader at the moment, but the First Minister, invited him to desist and make his observations at a subsequent stage. We remember that the hon. gentleman persisted and that the First Minister was obliged to yield to the hon. gentleman's persistence, and consent to the adjournment which he thought inconvenient a moment before. We remember that for some few hours the hon. gentleman was in that position, and that the measure came before the House a day later; and when that adjourned debate, which had been adjourned for his convenience, and in order that he might make the observations which he felt his public duty required him to make before the measure proceeded to another stage—when I say that debate was resumed, the hon. gentleman complained that his throat was sore, and that he could not speak with convenience just then.

Mr. COSTIGAN. No message had been sent over to speak now.

Mr. BLAKE. I am glad that he acknowledges that no message had been sent over to speak now. Perhaps if it had, the hon. gentleman's throat would not have been so bad. But the hon. gentleman said that his throat was sore, and he could not speak then, but would reserve his observations until concurrence. In the meantime before concurrence came, there was another kind of concurrence, and the hon. gentleman, although his throat was restored, harmony being also restored, spoke not at all; so that we never heard, perhaps we shall hear now, what the hon. gentleman's grave objections to that measure were; we never heard, perhaps we shall hear now, how his objections were cured. But so it was, that resignation took place, resistance took place, reconciliation took place, and readmission to the Cabinet took place; and the hon. gentleman resumed his loyalty and fidelity to his party. Now, the hon. gentleman says with reference to me that I have been false to my leader. Well, I do not mind that. I acquit myself of that. Those who sit around me and support and follow me acquit me of it also; and it is not upon the hon. gentleman's statement that a contrary verdict will be returned. I have heretofore denied that statement when it has been made by other hon. gentlemen; I have nothing to do on this occasion except to repeat that denial. Then, the hon. gentleman says that there was an occasion on which I excited one portion of the community against another, by moving in reference to Louis Riel, who I thought ought to be punished for what he had done in the North-West, as I think still. He says I excited, or sought to excite, one portion of the community against another. I ask the hon. gentleman to refer to the speeches I delivered on that occasion; I ask any hon. gentleman who will take the trouble, to search the records of the grounds on which I

Mr. COSTIGAN.

acted and spoke—which are the grounds upon which I act and speak still—and he will find that, so far from my views having been based on any effort to excite one section of the community against another, I stated in the speech I made in the Assembly, and to which the hon. gentleman refers, expressly my views as to what were the moving causes of that difficulty. I expressly disclaimed the notion that that denomination, to which the hon. gentleman himself belongs, and to which I suppose he alludes as one of the parties against whom he alleges another was to be excited, had any responsibility for the difficulty. So far from my efforts having been such as to excite one class in the community against another, it is my proud boast to-day that my views were confirmed by the population of my Province, Protestant and Roman Catholic, Orange and non-Orange, Tory and Reformer, by a unanimous vote in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, with the exception of one single man, the present Mr. Justice Cameron, who alone recorded his nay vote—every member of the Assembly, Tory and Reformer, Roman Catholic and Protestant, Orange and Green, uniting, Sir, in the resolution that the reward ought to be offered. Now, that was the result.

Mr. McCALLUM. You soon forgot it afterwards.

Mr. BLAKE. Well, we will see about that. Let us do one thing at a time; my plan of operations is to attend to one point at a time. I am attending to this charge of exciting one section against another, and I am pointing to what is the best evidence against it, that the representatives of the Province, after a general election, the election of 1871, when we were returned to Parliament, were unanimous, of whatever creed, whatever denomination, whatever class, with the single exception to which I refer, in affirming my policy. I had a united Province at my back, and that is not a sign of exciting one sect or denomination against another. The hon. member for Monck (Mr. McCallum) says I forgot it afterwards. I never forgot it. I found in the interval, we all found, that certain transactions occurred of which we had no conception, to which reference was made the other evening, and to which upon a convenient occasion I shall be delighted to refer at greater length—some transaction occurred which rendered a particular course advisable, statesmanlike, and the only course which could with justice and equity be pursued. We found that we had been committed by the acts of those in power; and I took that view and acted upon it, and in accordance with that view the question was adjusted. I was only a private member of Parliament at that time, but I take all the responsibility of having heartily concurred in the action taken by my hon. friend from East York (Mr. Mackenzie), and of having supported it by my vote and voice, because I believed it was the only course which honor and good faith permitted, after what had taken place, and which was developed in the very resolution on which the amnesty was founded. The hon. gentleman who has attacked me says that I forgot all that shortly afterwards, and that I declined to agree to a proposal for an immediate amnesty to the late W. B. O'Donohue. He is quite right; I did so; but he says I declined upon the ground that he was a red-handed murderer—he said that I painted him as a murderer. Now, Sir, I would like hon. gentlemen who may have forgotten that debate, again to recur to it, and they will find the distinct grounds, on which I thought a difference existed between the case of the others and the case of O'Donohue at that time, to be stated plainly. It was plainly made to appear that W. B. O'Donohue had been inciting a Fenian rising; he had been inciting Fenians from the United States to come into Canada. That was his position, that was his end, that was his object in this matter; and it was the circumstance that he was so inciting them, which had induced Governor Archibald and other authorities to make certain promises and to take certain action with