

mony of even the enemies of the half-breeds of that time—the testimony of a man like Mr. McArthur, an officer of the Hudson Bay Company, who was himself a prisoner of Louis Riel in those days, in a statement which he made at a public lecture in Winnipeg, that to the firmness of the half-breeds in 1870 the people of Manitoba were indebted for the privileges of responsible government. And, last year, did our countrymen remain behind? Notwithstanding anything which may have been said, I do not think it can be pretended that our men did not go to the North-West for the purpose of defending the Dominion flag and the Dominion authority; and if all the French Canadians did not see fire, there were at least two companies who went in pursuit of Big Bear under Colonel Strange, and Colonel Strange was the first man to admit that he never wished to see better soldiers. Now, Mr. Speaker, in view of all these facts we believe that Sir E. P. Taché was right when he said that the last shot fired for British connection on the American continent would be fired by a French Canadian. Why is it, then, that the hon. Premier, in discussing Canadian affairs at a banquet given by the St. George's Club, had to defend French Canadians against the imputations which were then made upon their loyalty? It was in consequence of the utterances of the organ of the Conservative party in the Province of Ontario, the *Toronto Mail*, who should have known the French people better. That leading paper was not satisfied with denouncing us as bad party men—I would have allowed him to do so in face, perhaps, of some provocation which the *Mail* received from papers in the Province of Quebec—but when the *Mail* branded us as rebels, and threatened us with a second conquest, saying that at that time there would be no Treaty of Paris, I say then there should have been a protest, not only from the hon. Premier, but from every member of his Cabinet, to show that the *Mail* was not expressing the opinion of the Conservative party of the Province of Ontario. Why threaten us with no second Treaty of Paris? I ask the English minority of the Province of Quebec if they ever suffered from any bad treatment or injustice at our hands? Have they not received fair play from the French Canadians? If there is one who can say so, I would like him to rise and say so. No, Mr. Speaker; we have respected the feelings of the English minority of the Province of Quebec—not only their feelings but their prejudices; and, Sir, occupying in this Dominion the position that the English minority occupy in the Province of Quebec, we expect, we have a right to expect, that they will respect our feelings and even our prejudices.