

THE WEEK.

A GREAT TRIAL ENDED.

The trial of Riel, accused of high treason in inciting the recent North-West rebellion, has been in progress at Regina during the week. After the examination of Dr. Willoughby whose evidence has been referred to, Thomas McKay, a half-breed, gave evidence, in the course of which he said that Riel once told him, "You don't know what we are. It is a war of extermination we want. We want blood, blood, blood. Nothing but blood will do us." Several other witnesses were examined regarding Riel's actions. Hilliard Mitchell, a justice of the peace, said that Riel in conversing with him had been very bitter against the Government and particularly against Sir John Macdonald, whom Riel said he would bring to his feet. Thomas Jackson, brother of Riel's secretary, said that Riel had told him that he had applied to the Government for \$25,000 for losses caused by exile from the country, etc. He said he had actually lost \$100,000, but was willing to take the amount mentioned. The witness thought the prisoner's motives were those of revenge. General Middleton was the leading witness and detailed the fights at Fish Creek and Batoche. White at the latter place witness had been brought a letter from Riel which threatened to kill the prisoners if the women were injured. Witness also detailed the search for the leaders and the capture of Riel. When Riel was brought before him he accepted the position of leader saying, "General, if the Lord had given me a victory as he did you, would I have made as good use of it?" A number of witnesses were examined to show that Riel had been the leader in the whole rebellion. For the defence, a large number of witnesses were examined to bear out the plea of insanity. Father Andre, who has lived for many years among the half-breeds, said he never liked to talk with Riel on religion or politics as his language frightened the witness, who considered him undoubtedly crazy on these points while on other subjects he seemed sane enough. Dr. Roy, of the Beauport asylum, Quebec, who swore that the prisoner suffered from a form of insanity, which he termed ambitious mania, one of the features of which was that as long as the particular hobby was not touched the patient appears perfectly sane. Dr. Clarke, of Toronto, also expressed the belief that Riel was insane, but Dr. Wallace, of Hamilton, did not think there was any indication of insanity about him. General Middleton, Capt. Young and Rev. Mr. Pitblado, in rebuttal, said they believed the prisoner was perfectly sane. This closed the evidence and Mr. Fitzpatrick, Riel's counsel, then made a powerful appeal to the jury on behalf of his client.

RIEL DEFENDS HIMSELF.

Riel on being asked is he had anything to say addressed the Court and jury as follows: Your honor, gentlemen of the jury, gentlemen of the Crown, and our own good counsel,—It would be a very easy thing to plead insanity, but I have no desire to enter such a plea. I hope, with God's help, to show that I am not insane. The papers in the hands of the Crown are not like the productions of a madman, and you will not accept them as evidence to support the plea of insanity which my counsel have made on my behalf.

The prisoner here stopped suddenly in his address, and offered up the following short prayer:—

"Oh, my God, help me to speak to this honorable court, and to those lawyers, and to the jury."

He then resumed his address and said: The day I was born I was helpless, but my mother helped me. I am helpless here to-day, but the North-West is my mother and my country will not let me perish; my mother would not kill me and my country will not. I have many good friends not only here in the North-West but also in Lower Canada. If I was a fool when I came here in 1884 I was not so foolish as not to notice that the Metis were eating rotten Hudson's Bay pork and the Indians asking for the pittance which was their due and refused. I hoped to unite all classes in the Saskatchewan together. Although I have but half a jury I feel that, actuated by British fair play, they will give me justice. During my whole life I have been working for practical results and God is with me. I found Him guarding me in the battle of the Saskatchewan when bullets fell about me like rain. Archbishop Bourget told me in a letter that I had a mission and I know that to be a fact. After referring to his incarceration in the asylum, he said: "The police have been very kind to me. It has been said that I wanted to bring Sir John Macdonald to my feet. I think if I had been properly reported my true meaning would have been understood, and my remark would have appeared in a different light. Mr. Blake, is trying to bring Sir John Macdonald to his feet, and it is in the same way that I wanted to accomplish the same end. I have been credited as a prophet, but by the half-breeds, and have I not proved it? Your Honor, gentlemen of the jury, my liberty, my life, are at your discretion; so confident am I in your sense of duty that I have not the slightest anxiety or doubt with regard to the verdict. The calmness of my mind concerning the favorable decision which I expect from you does not come from any unjustifiable presumption. I simply expect that, through God's help, you will balance everything in a conscientious way, and that after having heard what I have to say you will acquit me. Gentlemen of the jury, although you are but half a jury, although you are but half a jury, you have all my respect, and I have in you six the same confidence I would like to give the other six jurors which ought to compose the number, and, your Honor, if you have yourself selected the jurors it is not on your personal responsibility. You have followed the laws made to guide you, and while I do not approve of such laws, it is my duty to make this declaration of my respect for your Honor. This Court undertakes to decide my case, which had its origin fifteen years ago, long before this Court existed. It is a competent Court, but having to stand my trial before it I consider the providence of God has perhaps allowed matters to go on in that way up to this moment for a particular merciful purpose. In that light this Court becomes a providential instrument, which I love and respect. In taking the circumstances of my trial there are only three things I would like to call respectfully your attention to before you retire to deliberate: First, that the House of Commons the Senate and the Ministry of the Dominion which make the laws for this land and govern it, are not representatives whatever of the people of the North-West; second, that the North-West Council, generated by the Federal Government, has the defects of its parent. The number of members elected by the people to the Council make it only a sham representative legislature and no representative government. British civilization, which rules the world to-day, and the British constitution has defined a government as those who rule the North-West, and called them responsible Governments, which bluntly means that they are not re-

sponsible. By all the science which I had here before you yesterday, you were compelled to believe that, if I am not responsible, then I am insane. Good sense alone, without scientific theories or explanations, leads to the same conclusion. By the testimony laid before you during the trial, witnesses on both sides proved that petition after petition was sent to the Federal Government, but so irresponsible is that Government to the North-West, that for several years it did nothing to satisfy the people of this great land, but that party has not been able to answer once or give a single response. This fact would indicate absolute lack of responsibility. In fact there is insanity complicated with paralysis indicated. In fact, with the malady it is said I am suffering from, this monster of irresponsibility, the Government and its little one, the North-West Council, had made up their minds to answer the petition by attempting to jump suddenly on me and my people on the Saskatchewan. Happily, when they appeared and showed their teeth to devour, I was ready. I have fired and wounded them with flashing eyes and clenched hands. Bear it in mind that what is called my crime is high treason. Oh, my good jurors, in the name of Jesus Christ, the only one who can save me, help one for they are trying to tear me to pieces. If you take the plea for the defence, that I am not responsible for my acts, acquit me completely, since I have been quarrelling with irresponsible, insane Governments of my own sort. If you pronounce in favor of the Crown, which contends I am responsible, acquit me all the same. You are perfectly justified to declare my reason and sound mind. I have acted reasonably and in self defence while the Government, my aggressors, being irresponsible and consequently insane, cannot but have acted wrongly, and if there is high treason then it must be on its side and not on my part. I have done.

Mr. Oser, Q. C., replied for the Crown, after which Judge Richardson commenced his charge and proceeded to read the evidence over to the jury which he did not conclude before Saturday morning. He then reviewed the law upon which the Court was established and the trial conducted, and then dwelt upon the chief points in the evidence of the various witnesses. The jury retired to consider their verdict at 3.15 on Saturday afternoon. During the afternoon Riel prayed fervently kneeling in his box. He looked unmoved as the jury re-entered and in response to the question of the Court announced their verdict as "Guilty," with a recommendation to mercy, amid breathless silence. The prisoner had been taking voluminous notes since his speech and when asked if he had anything to say why sentence should not be passed upon him he commenced an address which extended over two hours and in which he reviewed the troubles of 1869-70 and his connection therewith and dwelt on the grievances of the half-breeds. His speech, however, contained nothing new.

SENTENCED TO DEATH.

Judge Richardson then rose and amidst a hushed stillness pronounced the sentence of the Court which was that Louis Riel should be hanged by the neck at Regina, on the 15th of September next, until he was dead. He warned the prisoner that he could hold out to him no prospect of a reprieve or of interference by Her Majesty. The doomed man, who took the result with great coolness, was then removed from the Court room to his quarters in the police barracks where he will remain until the day fixed for his execution. The sentence is regarded in all quarters as a just one but it is believed that

an effort will be made to have the doomed man reprieved.

A BANK'S FALL.

The Irish people have been greatly victimized by the failure of the Munster Bank. Since the first announcement of the failure, extensive frauds have been discovered in the accounts of the Bank. Mr. Farquharson one of the joint-managers of the Dublin Branch, is missing with £70,000 of the Bank's funds. It is understood that Farquharson took the money after the Bank's suspension. When some discrepancies were pointed out to him, he made light of them, and promised a full explanation. He then immediately disappeared. Farquharson had been in the service of the Bank for twelve years. The almost crazed shareholders have offered a large reward for his apprehension. The warrant of arrest is for the specific sum of £50,000 which he had entered as having been remitted to the Union Bank of London, which was not the case. Farquharson who was in the habit of speculating heavily, was a director of several companies. The highest confidence was placed in him, he was engaged to marry a wealthy Dublin lady, and had bought a house lately at a cost of £25,000. Such was the confidence, in fact, that was reposed in him, that after the suspension he was proposed as official liquidator, and the news of his transactions came like a crash on all connected with the Bank. He is proved to have been the worst kind of a scoundrel. Two years ago £4,000 in gold was stolen from the bank safe, and a clerk named Lodge was charged, tried and acquitted. Farquharson was the only other man who had a safe key and there is no doubt now that he was the culprit also in this case and tried to convict an innocent man. His wrong doing does not even end here. After his flight a committee was appointed to make an inquiry into his conduct and has since reported that Farquharson willfully prevented the Bank of Ireland from advancing to the Munster Bank a desired loan which would have enabled it to tide over the crisis by refusing to give the Bank of Ireland securities entrusted to him with which to obtain credit and upon which the Bank of Ireland had decided to lend. The defaulting manager, it is believed, has succeeded in making his escape to the continent but every possible effort is being made to effect his arrest.

WEATHER AND CROP REPORT.

The past week has been notable for excessive heat generally over the northern part of the continent, followed by destructive wind storms and heavy rainfalls. In many places in the North-West the heat and moisture have caused more or less blight and rust on the growing crops, while the chinch bugs and grasshoppers are still at work, in some localities, though on the whole the damage done by them has not been large. Corn and oats are making enormous growth and give promise of a larger yield of coarse grains than on any previous season on this continent. Potatoes and all other root crops are doing well, but fears are entertained that should the heat and moisture continue, the rot will attack the potatoes before long. The pea-bug has not put in an appearance this season and with favorable weather in harvesting the yield will be unusually large. The hay is about completed in all places except in the far north settlements and the yield, though disappointing in many places, is a good average, which will be amply supplemented by an enormous yield of straw.