

asylum I perceived that with him insanity was simulated. The exaggeration of his acts was such, and so much beyond what we generally remark in subjects afflicted with real insanity that with a physician accustomed to treat such cases there would be no room for doubt. Upon making the observation to him that I was not to be taken for his dupe he confessed to me in effect that he was shamming insanity, and the evidence that I was right in my surmise and that his confession was really sincere, is that on all occasions, and they were many, I have been alone conversing with him, he has always talked in a manner absolutely lucid and sane upon all and every subject with which he has entertained me.

(Sgd.)

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Is it fair when these certificates were read in parliament and never answered they should not have been referred to in the speeches in which Mr. Blake argues the insanity of that criminal and his irresponsibility? But the electors of Quebec are asked to vote—not that Riel was a harmless lunatic, but that he was a murdered patriot, and they are so asked by the allies of Mr. Blake, who declared that Riel had committed a foul and damnable murder. Hon. Mr. Foster read to you a few moments ago, some utterances of the opposition press. But the responsibility of the opposition does not depend on the utterances of their press alone. We know that when the election came on in Chambly, the lieutenant of Mr. Blake, I refer now to Mr. Laurier, who is the spokesman of Mr. Blake in the Province of Quebec—stood on the platform, and reiterated the statement that if he had had the opportunity he would have been glad to have been found shouldering his rifle to assist the rebels on the banks of the Saskatchewan.

We had Mr. Blake standing up in Parliament and saying that the snows of the North-west were dyed with the blood of one of his kinsmen, and we have the man who sits close by his side appealing to the people of Quebec, asking them to place him in power, while he says he would have shot down the men who fought for the safety and honor of the flag of our country. (Loud applause.) It is reported in the press that Mr. Mowatt in his speech at Ottawa the other day said that the government having hanged Riel the people would hang the government. In his revised speech the readers of the *Free Press* would see nothing of this for he had it carefully eliminated: but if you read the speech of Hon. Edward Blake you will find that for the purpose of making a little joke he quotes Mr. Mowatt's words and adds that he would commute the sentence to banishment from office. This shows that he did say it, and they may try to get out of it, but cannot, for there is Mr. Blake's statement before them. The mere fact of their press having uttered what they did when Mr. Prefontaine was elected in Chambly, that revenge should be executed against the Government for the execution of a criminal, shows the

keynote that the opposition is sounding. Sir when the victory was won by Mr. Prefontaine congratulations came not only from Mr. Edgar Mr. Blake's adjutant-general, but also from Mr. Dumas, Riel's ex-adjutant-general. We have right to appeal to your fairness and your judgment, and I ask you, to consider whether we have not done our duty and whether we should be condemned for doing it. The victory at Chambly has furnished still more proof to the people of this country that what we did in seeing the law enforced was right, for we think that when the lives of people stand in jeopardy neither liberals or conservatives can afford to let the agitators of these troubles go free; but we find the opposition receiving from Garnot, the secretary of Riel's counsel, a message congratulating them on their victory and saying that "Riel dead is more powerful than Riel alive."

We fortunately have no such record as that to show. It has yet to be made appear in any portion of the Dominion that the liberal-conservative party has endeavored to set race against race or creed against creed. The false accusation has been made that we did so simply because we had allowed the law to take its course. Let any man whatever his creed or race may be, ask himself in going over the record of our party whether we have in selecting representatives in the cabinet or in the distribution of public patronage been actuated by questions of either class, creed or race. (Applause.) Let him ask to be pointed to any instance in any province of Canada to-day where any man has been excluded from the cabinet because he is English, Irish, Scotch, French, Protestant, or Catholic. (Applause.) And that which I claim in reference to representation, I can fairly claim on this platform or any platform in Canada, in reference also to the distribution of public patronage or the exercise of any power of government. Then, sir, if what I have said be true as regards the province of Quebec, how is it with reference to my own province, which I yet think one of the brightest spots in the Dominion? (Cheers.)

Let me ask those who are championing the cause of secession there, or that of annexation here, who are using the name of Edward Blake to conjure by, if they are willing to accept the support of those whose watchword is, "RIEL DEAD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN RIEL ALIVE!" The policy of the opposition is different in each province. It is secession in Nova Scotia, reciprocity in New Brunswick, revenge in Quebec, and slander in Ontario.

I thank you very much for the patient manner in which you have listened to me, and I am exceedingly indebted to you, but it is because I know I have taxed your patience, and in closing I would say that I have found throughout Canada wherever I have gone, an honest desire expressed from both sides to hear the fullest discussion of these public questions of the day, and I declare to you that I feel that our party and its policy will triumph wherever free and fair discussion takes place. (Cheers.)