

with those people, brought about the troubles, and that the Government are no less criminal than those who rose in arms. To the other parts of those letters I have already answered or will answer in the course of my remarks. For the present I shall only allude to one of the letters from which he read. It is a pity that the hon. Senator did not read the whole of that letter. It contains the most complete condemnation of the course which the hon. gentleman is now pursuing. I will read it in its place :—

“The troubles could and should have been prevented. Why was the warning not listened to when given by those who foresaw the same troubles and who brought them to the notice of the authorities? Our statesmen have my respect, but as ‘no man is wise at all times’ I trust they will permit a friendly voice to tell them that they were mistaken. But it is only justice to say that they were not alone in fault. The Ministerial seats number 13, but the Parliamentary seats number nearly 300. It is undoubtedly painful and humiliating to know that Ministers of the Crown should have officially affirmed that no steps had been taken in favor of the Metis, either by themselves or by their friends; but, on the other hand, it is also to be deplored that the isolated voices raised in both Houses of the Legislature did not command the support sufficient to determine an earnest search into the situation, and the means of remedying what was defective in it. It is sad to think that nothing short of bloodshed and expenditure of millions could bring those who have the management of public affairs in one or another capacity to comprehend that the North-West is not only a vast tract of country, but, moreover, that there are vast social questions which are far from having obtained a satisfactory solution.”

Then as to the hon. senator who moved the resolutions (Mr. Bolduc), I was not at all surprised at the stand he took—Il n’y a que le premier pas qui coute dans la voie du mal. The hon. gentleman having been one of the causes of the rebellion he thought it was better to continue the course he had begun.

On the 27th March, 1884, a motion having been made in the Commons asking the House to take into consideration the complaints of the half-breeds, the hon. senator and the majority of the House of Commons voted down the resolution. The House could have nothing to do with the half-breeds; let them die of hunger; let them leave the country, they are French half-breeds; we have enough of that race in the country. The moment the news of

this vote reached the far west a meeting of the half-breeds was held. They decided that Riel should be asked to join them. A deputation was sent to Montana, where Riel was residing, to bring him home with them. Riel hesitated but his patriotism triumphed, and he came to the Canadian side in June 1884, and from that day till the beginning of 1885 he used all constitutional means to force the Government to do justice to his people. Finally war broke out. I regret that the honorable gentleman has persevered in the evil way. It is certainly more worthy of a man when he has been wrong, to acknowledge his error, change his course and do what is right. A good many of those who voted down this resolution to which I have referred, deceived as they were by the Government acknowledged it and changed their allegiance. Had we not again some few days ago a proof of what Sir John is? If his party is small, his majority thin, he is humble to his friends. Is he strong, the majority at his back powerful, he cares no more about his most devoted friends but persists in having his own way, and should he find any of them in his way he does not hesitate to sacrifice them. Take for instance the case of the hon. member from Toronto (Mr. O’Donohoe); was it not a shame to treat an old and devoted follower as he did that gentleman? Could he have treated in a more insulting manner, I will not say a friend, but even an adversary? Here are the words he is reported to have used in the House of Commons last Friday, the 26th ult: “Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman went on at some length to discuss the reconstruction of the Government and the hon. gentleman talks about Mr. O’Donohoe. Well, Mr. O’Donohoe is a very good man and is now a Senator. He was very near being in the Government. But I will say this for Mr. O’Donohoe, that he did not desire to be a weakness to the Government, and at the time he might have claimed a seat in the Cabinet he found that such was the hostile feeling towards him that instead of being a strength to the Government he would be a weakness; he admitted the fact, and he took a seat in the Senate where he now is.”

I cannot resume my seat without giving an answer to a rumour which has spread