

they appeared at the solicitation of the Governor General of the country and not at the solicitation of the Government; that the Governor General promised to listen to their grievances, to listen to what public meetings had to say through them, and the consequence was that the Government was condemned for countenancing to the "infamous men who had the audacity to appear at Ottawa as delegates from Riel and his council." They assert now that the leaders of the Government and the Government themselves never did anything for Manitoba. The hon. gentleman, in the same speech, went on to say:

"The Bill was framed entirely in the interests of Riel and his friends, and the ruffians, Scott and Ritchot, were received by the Government as if they were upright men representing the people of the Territory—notwithstanding the remonstrances of the people conveyed to them. In the passage of that Bill, and in everything connected with that country, he felt that the Canadian people had suffered an amount of degradation never equalled. He looked to the people of Canada, and especially Ontario, to justify the action of the Opposition on this question."

I am indulging in these brief reminiscences to let hon. gentlemen from the Province of Quebec and those who sympathise with them upon the question as affecting Louis Riel, see that the Conservative party were doing at that time what the Reform party condemned, and now that they have discharged their duty and have condemned a great criminal, some of the gentlemen opposite were willing to join in the hue-and-cry and condemn hon. gentlemen representing the Province of Quebec in the Ministry, as traitors, cowards and hangmen, because, in accordance with the oath they had taken, they discharged their duty fearlessly as patriots and statesmen. In 1872 the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake), as Premier, and the hon. member for East York as Provincial Treasurer, offered a reward of \$5,000 for the arrest of Riel. In 1871 the hon. member for West Durham desired a monument for Scott; in 1872 he was willing to subscribe privately to secure Riel, and in 1874 Riel was elected; in 1875 Riel was partially amnestied; and throughout the whole record hon. gentlemen will find there never was a sincere motive actuating these hon. gentlemen, so far as Ontario was concerned, in dealing with this question of Riel and the troubles of 1870. Having raised that excitement, what was the next proceeding? To agitate against the French Bleus. What do we find? Up to 1882 and prior to the general elections, these were the sentiments of the *Free Press*, the Ottawa organ of the Opposition, and this was the attack it made on my colleague:

"Everybody knows that the deadliest enemies to this Province are the Quebec Bleus, of which party Mr. Tassé is a strong supporter."

And these hon. gentlemen, after asserting that they were the deadliest enemies of Ontario, are willing to embrace them now, and for what purpose? Not to support and promote the public interest, but to get the opportunity of vaulting into the Treasury Benches. The *Free Press* went on to say:

"They refused to support Sir John unless he set aside the boundary award, and it was at their dictation that Ontario has been robbed of 96,000 square miles of territory. In view of these facts, it would be sheer madness for an Ontario constituency to elect Mr. Tassé. All our institutions, our magnificent school system, our asylums, charitable institutions, agricultural college, provisions of every kind for the care of the unfortunate and indigent, and the reformation of the vicious, now supported out of the proceeds of our provincial timber and mining lands, must cease to exist if these resources are taken from us by Sir John Macdonald at the bidding of Mr. Tassé and the Quebec Bleus."

My hon. friend and colleague (Mr. Tassé) is not a very formidable looking gentleman.—

Mr. BLAKE. Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKINTOSH. The hon. gentleman should wait. I meant to add, until he speaks:—

"Will the people of Ottawa vote for Mr. Tassé, and thereby bring Ontario down to the bankrupt condition of Quebec?"

Mr. MACKINTOSH.

Again the *Globe* of July 3rd, 1882, said:

"To win the support of the Bleus to-day Sir John as thoroughly their tool as he was in ante-Confederation days, when he fought off the Upper Canadian demand for representation by population at their bidding. It is simply the old game that he is playing—denying Ontario rights to conciliate the Bleus. To maintain his hold upon them he is willing not merely to ignore the interests of Ontario as formerly, but to dismember the Province, to rob us of our territory, to reduce the power of our Legislature, to belittle and scorn and humiliate us in every way, that the jealousy of the Bleus may be gratified. The other allies of Ontario as against a Government founded on extravagance, corruption, high taxes, and Bleu domination are the Maritime Provinces. The Reform cause, though temporarily under a cloud, is based on sound principles and having the moral forces of the community behind it, its triumph is not far distant."

And yet the hon. gentleman desires to vault into power supported by the Quebec Bleus who were represented as wishing to bring Ontario down to the bankrupt condition of Quebec. I now come to the uprising and the North-West troubles of 1885. In 1884 my hon. friend from North Perth (Mr. Trow) was in that country. I read his magnificent description of its resources; I read of the happy, contented people, of the splendid fertility of the districts he passed through, of the universal happiness that existed, and it was not until the rebellion broke out we heard that everyone had been miserable, that the homes of the people were ruined, that the land had been desolate, and all classes depressed and broken-hearted. The hon. member for East York was there in 1884 and he was one of the first to give warning, when he said to a gentleman who interviewed him in Toronto for the *Globe*, that he believed that the mistaken expressions of opinion in some articles in the Ontario press, as well as the utterances of certain people, had done a great deal to damage the North-West. The hon. ex-Finance Minister was there, and we heard no cry of danger from him, although he gave the people some sound advice, as he is able to do, when expressing his opinions to them in Winnipeg. But it was not until Louis Riel set his foot on the soil and strengthened himself by means of intrigues with the Indians, that this country became aware of the danger which threatened it. Did we receive assistance from hon. gentlemen opposite? From the leader of the Opposition there was assistance to some extent; from the ex-Finance Minister there was to a certain extent, assistance; but I ask if the press of this country did not blame and condemn the Government for the uprising? Had it not been for the loyal priests of that country, whose wise counsels prevailed in many cases, much greater trouble might undoubtedly have ensued. But, Sir, when hon. gentlemen opposite assert that this Government is responsible for the uprising, that Louis Riel came to Canada because the Government policy was improper, unjust or tyrannical, they assert what the country knows to be far from the truth. As this discussion relates to the execution of Louis Riel, it is not necessary for me to go into the subject of North-West grievances. The hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) will, no doubt, give the House some information on that subject. That hon. gentleman was Minister of the Interior when he wrote to Mr. Codd, his agent: "You must not look up claims; if people do not think claims worth looking up, let the claims go." The hon. gentleman refused to assist the half-breeds; he said they had no more right to assistance than the whites. The hon. gentleman, in 1877—informed the hon. member for Marquette, Mr. Ryan, that the non-allotment of lands had caused a great deal of trouble and uneasiness in that country; and when we turned last year to some returns from the Department of the Interior—I think the matter was mentioned in a speech made by my hon. friend, the present Minister of the Interior—we found that the hon. gentleman had disposed of 43 cases of half-breed grievances by simply writing: "No.—D.M." That was the manner in which the hon. gentleman summarily disposed of cases brought