

that of half-breeds living in the vicinity of Cypress Mountain. The *Mail* says 101 had received scrip in Manitoba, 14 received scrip from the commission, and 161 had not proved their claims. Let us return to the petition. It is that of David Laverguere, and 277 others, from Cypress Hills; they ask for the privileges of hunting the buffalo at all seasons; they represent that the majority among them had not participated in the scrip distributed at Manitoba, and they make their demand accordingly, fairly and honestly. I turn to the next petition. The *Mail* says 17 petitioned from Manitoba village, of whom 5 had received scrip in Manitoba, 8 had received scrip from the commission, and 4 had not proved their claims. I turn to the petition. It is that of Charles McKay, and 16 others from Manitoba village; they represented that some of them, who belonged to Manitoba, were absent at the enumeration, and did not participate in the grant of scrip; they, therefore, asked that those be allowed to participate in the grant as if they had been present when the enumeration was taken; they represent also that the half-breeds, who do not belong to Manitoba, are entitled to the same treatment, and they ask the same treatment for them. Take the next petition. The *Mail* says, that of the 115 half-breeds at Qu'Appelle who petitioned, 57 had received scrip in Manitoba, 44 had received scrip from the commission, and 14 had not proved their claims. This is the petition of Peter Lapierre, and 114 others, from Fort Qu'Appelle. What do they ask? They ask for the North-West half-breeds the same participation in scrip as was given the half-breeds in Manitoba; they ask, as to the half-breeds of the North-West Territory, that the Government will be pleased to make a survey of their present holdings similar to old settlers' claims on the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. Then, as to the petition of Gabriel Dumont and forty-six others. The *Mail* says that thirty-six of them had received scrip in Manitoba and had not proved their claims. Here, again, you would suppose that Gabriel Dumont and the forty-four others settlers, who petitioned the Government in 1882 from the Prince Albert District, asked also for scrip on the ground that they were entitled to it, whereas the purport of that petition was not to ask for scrip, but to ask that the Government should be pleased to cause surveys to be made of their present holdings, and that they should have free grants of the land of which they were then in possession. The *Mail* says of another petition of half breed settlers near Qu'Appelle, numbering forty-four, that thirty had received scrip in Manitoba, eleven from the commission, and three had not proved their claims. But this is the petition of John Simpson, and others, whose names have become unfortunately too famous in the rebellion. Did they ask for scrip, and try to obtain an unfair advantage, as the *Mail* says? No, Sir, they did not even mention that in the petition. The only things they complain of are the surveys and the patents. They represent that their lands were invaded by the Ontario and Qu'Appelle Company, and prayed for justice. That was the only grievance they set forth. It is therefore manifest that this article in the *Mail* was a most malicious article, one calculated to convey the impression that the half-breeds had really no grievances, but that the most of those who had petitioned, had received from the hands of the Government whatever they were entitled to; and that, therefore, the rebellion was not the rebellion of people who were seeking the adjustment of grievances, but of men who were trying to take unfair advantage of the Government. I regret that the whole report of the North-West Commission has not been brought down. I have been told on good authority that Mr. Street, the president of the commission, had again and again expressed his admiration of the character of the half-breeds, and again and again stated that he had never met with a more truthful people. That, in all these transactions, though some two thousand people had appeared before

him, not one had endeavored to misrepresent facts or to try to say anything which was not the truth. Under such circumstances, the bringing down of such a report, with such an object, and commented on as it has been by the press supporting the Government, is another crime for which the Government are liable. Is it not a crime committed by the Government against those people? In the same spirit which called for the preparation of the return I have now discussed, was another report prepared which was recently placed upon the Table of this House. This report was prepared by Mr. Pearce, who is, if I recollect well, inspector of mines of the North-West Territories. This report, as he says himself, was prepared at the request of the Minister of the Interior, who sent him to the theatre of the late insurrection, for the very purpose of bringing down the information which the report contains. This report is dated the 15th December; it was placed on the Table of the House on the 15th April. It is true that certain ministerial newspapers were more favored in this respect than the House, because the report was communicated to certain ministerial newspapers, and perhaps, if we have had it all, it is due to the indiscretion of one of those newspapers, which discussed the report as if it had been already brought down to the House. This report was also prepared with an object, with the object of showing that, in the locality to which the insurrection was confined, the settlers, or the great majority of them, 92 per cent., as the report says, had really no grievances against the Government. The report goes on to say that 92 per cent. of the settlers in that locality had no grievances whatever against the Government, that 92 per cent., and perhaps more of them, had received scrip in Manitoba; that 92 per cent., at least, of them had no grievances against the Government in respect of surveys or of patents. I will not discuss this report to-day at length, the question it deals with is chiefly that of surveys, and, when we come to discuss that question, it will be time to enter into that matter and to show, as I believe, it will be possible to show, how fallacious this report is in that matter. But there is in this report a general purport which may well be discussed here. The general purport which this report tends to establish is that, since in the district to which the insurrection was confined, the majority of the people had no grievances against the Government, there could not be any grievances elsewhere, and that, therefore, the insurrection was absolutely causeless. The object the report has in view is to establish that the rebellion was causeless since in the very place where the people rebelled, they had no grievances whatever. The fact that the rebellion was confined to one particular section of the country is no evidence that there were no grievances in the other parts of the country, even if there had been no grievance in the part to which the insurrection was confined. Look at the insurrection in Lower Canada in 1837, no one will dispute to-day that the Lower Canadians suffered from grievances of a more serious nature. Those grievances were not particular to one section of the country; they affected the whole population of the Province; they extended through the breadth and length of the land; and the insurrection, when it took place, did not spread itself all over the Province, all over the district where these grievances were, for the insurrection was confined to two or three localities. Out of twenty or twenty-five counties which then existed, the insurrection was confined to two or three at most. And, moreover, the very fact that there was a rebellion in the North-West is the best possible evidence that there were grievances which affected the whole of that community. You never find a rebellion anywhere unless those who rebel receive the moral sympathy of their fellow-countrymen. If there is an outbreak anywhere—and this is a daily occurrence—and if those who rise have not the moral support of their fellow-countrymen, you may have a riot, but you will not have a rebellion. You will have a rebellion only when the community is deeply