

Mr. McMULLEN. Is not the question of adjournment before the House.

Mr. SPEAKER. I do not think the hon. gentleman took his seat with the idea of giving up his right. If an hon. member takes his seat when another member rises to speak, he loses his right.

Mr. McMULLEN. When he sat down, I moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. ROYAL. I sat down when I was called to order.

Mr. SPEAKER. Will the hon. gentleman please proceed with his speech.

Mr. ROYAL. I might contrast the two expeditions of troops in 1870 and 1885. In 1885 the troops were certainly more disciplined. They showed a better spirit; and it was seen that a young country, when a portion of its population, rightly or wrongly, chooses to appeal to arms for the redress of its grievances, from every part of that young country the volunteers on the call to arms are unanimous. It shows the strength of our institutions, and I believe that no young country was ever so true to a test as great as that which Canada has had. In 1870 the troops, on arriving at Winnipeg, showed a great deal of indiscipline, of which I was myself witness. But in the present year our volunteers have displayed an amount of discipline, of endurance, of patriotism, that every member of this House is justly to be proud of. The 65th Montreal regiment accomplished a march of thirty-two miles in a boggy, swampy country, which, I believe is unparalleled in the history of any march. Contrast the proclamations issued by Colonel Wolseley and that of General Middleton. In the proclamation issued by Colonel Wolseley there was an insult of the population of the country, while that of General Middleton was a simple and dignified appeal to the people to lay down their arms and submit to the laws of the country. The result of Colonel Wolseley's proclamation was a deep feeling of humiliation and sorrow among the people, while the conduct of General Middleton was such as to conciliate the people towards the Government; and instead of a protracted spirit of resistance and hostility on the part of the people, I am sure that in a few weeks it will be evident to all that the half-breed population did not willingly go into rebellion, but that they were misled by designing politicians. Now, Sir, the half-breeds were accused of cowardice by Col. Wolseley in his despatch; but if we may judge of the resistance that they might have offered to his march to the Red River and of the resistance they have offered to our own troops, I believe if the half-breeds had been so disposed Col. Wolseley would never have been able to issue his proclamation from Fort Garry. At every portage that our volunteers had to make, 25 armed half-breeds could for a long time have prevented Col. Wolseley and his troops from going from Port Arthur to the Red River. Sir, these half-breeds have also been accused of cruelty. Well, we know by the newspaper accounts that it was to the half-breeds that last spring the white prisoners in the Indian camps owed their liberty and their lives. We know that Mrs. Delaney, who was taken prisoner in Poundmaker's camp, was liberated by a poor half-breed, a man named Delphis Nolin, who had only two ponies with him, and who cheerfully gave them up to Poundmaker to assure the freedom of Mrs. Delaney. This is but one instance, but there were many others, during the recent outbreak, which prove the humanity of the half-breeds. Far from exercising any vengeance upon any of their white prisoners, either civilian or military, our English and French half-breeds were instrumental in saving the lives of these prisoners from the cruelties which Indians have always been accustomed to exercise towards their captives. It has also been stated that the half-breeds are inferior to our own people in the arts of agriculture and civilisation.

Mr. ROYAL.

Now, if we look at the reports published in the American papers—which certainly are not over friendly to us—we see that the half-breeds at Batoche, St. Laurent and other parishes, had farms as highly improved as any farm in the State of Minnesota. We have seen the description of the house opposite Batoche, and of other farm houses in that region, which shows that there is a considerable degree of civilisation and cultivated taste among the half-breeds. Agricultural implements are numerous among them, and you will find as many agricultural implements on their farms as on any farm in the eastern Provinces. With regard to the intellectual standing of the half-breed population in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, I believe we have no reason to be ashamed of them, as having descended from English and French fathers, the same as ourselves. An English-speaking half-breed, Mr. Norquay, has for the last eight years, been Premier of Manitoba. We see, also, by the last report, that a French-speaking half-breed won the Governor's medal, at the concourse of the colleges affiliated with the Manitoba University. In the course of my connection with the Administration in Manitoba, I sat at the council table with two or three half-breeds, and I must say they are not inferior to any one in intelligence and intellectual capacity as well as education. I have stated what I consider to be the remote causes of the troubles that have taken place on the shores of the Saskatchewan. I now come to the second part of my observations, and I shall have to state some unpleasant facts to hon. gentlemen opposite, which facts, however, cannot be disputed. I come to the more immediate causes of the outbreak. I have stated that there are remote causes, over which no Government, whether Liberal or Conservative, could have controlled. They were in the essence of the matter. There was the want of sagacity and judgment of Canadians who first went to the Red River settlement. Then there was the utter want of judgment on the part of officials sent in 1869-70, and the fanaticism and want of judgment on the part of some officials sent to Manitoba in 1870. Then there was the want of easy and quick communication, and it is almost impossible for any Government to thoroughly control its officials unless within easy distance. I believe those immediate causes were aggravated to a large extent by the shameful speculation that was carried on at the expense of the half-breeds in the years following 1870. By the Manitoba Act a certain reserve had been set out for the extinguishment of the Indian title in favor of the people of that part of the country. In fact, the half-breeds under that Act were recognised as a distinct people, having distinct privileges and rights, which the Government of Canada had to deal with and settle. And let me here say that with respect of North-West grievances, there are three causes of the grievances in connection with the North-West affairs. There are letters and petitions addressed to the Government by the people, both of Manitoba and the North-West Territories. Those letters and petitions have been read and commented upon at great length by some hon. gentlemen opposite, more especially by the leader of the Opposition. Then we have the resolutions and Bills of Rights proposed by Riel and his white Grit followers at Prince Albert and elsewhere; and the resolutions proposed at the Moosomin and Calgary meetings, and they form a distinct part of the grievances. The third class of grievances is composed of the grievances of the Opposition, and I believe they are the only grievances with which to deal in the settlement of this question. Under the Manitoba Act as stated the half-breeds were entitled to have a certain lot of land for the extinguishment of the Indian title. A reserve, comprising 1,400,000 acres of land, was set apart for the purpose. But long were the delays. It is not my intention to make more of those details than should be made of them. And so long were the delays in the apportionment of those reserves, and so protracted the issue of letters