

Laird and the other gentlemen were sent to govern had very few inhabitants except Indians. But the right hon. member for Kingston sent his Government to a country in which there were several thousand white people, a people from whom rulers had already been chosen, and who had formerly a Council and Government of their own. What was the position in the North-West? Did the hon. gentlemen pretend to say that the half-breeds were an educated population, who appointed their chief the same as the Indians did, who followed the buffalo from place to place, and had no fixed habitation? That was the impression the hon. gentleman seemed to wish to create. Yet he must know, if he gave any attention to the condition of things in that country, that the half-breed population, with the single exception of the few who resided in the vicinity of Prince Albert, were, in no respect, different in their modes and conditions of life from the Indians.'

The hon. gentleman interrupted me a moment ago to say that, at the time he constituted the North-West Council, he appointed a half-breed.

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Breland, and he is named in that speech.

Mr. GIROUARD. I say you did not; you appointed him in 1878.

Mr. MILLS. Yes.

Mr. GIROUARD. Then do not contradict me when I say you did not appoint any half-breed before 1878.

Mr. MILLS. That is what I said.

Mr. GIROUARD. I was going to give you the reason why you appointed one then.

Mr. MILLS. You said we did not appoint any.

Mr. GIROUARD. You did not in 1876, when you organised the council. It was constituted under Act of Parliament of 1875, but you waited one year before you would put that new constitution into operation, and yet, when you came to make the nominations to that council, not only was there not one half-breed in it or one in office under it, but there was not on it one single white-man living in that country; they were all taken from Ontario and even from around Ottawa here, like Mr. Scott, who was placed in the registry office there, and was a brother of one of the colleagues of the hon. gentleman. I have mentioned that there was a complaint. It was not only made in the House but also outside of it. Take the petition which was sent at the beginning of 1878, the petition of the half-breeds of St. Albert and also of the half-breeds of St. Laurent. One of their first grievances is that they have no representative in the institutions of their country.

"The humble petition of the undersigned French Canadians and half-breeds of St. Albert in the North-West Territories.—Information having