

the production of the papers, the matters which he has brought before us, but I can tell the hon. gentleman that I am as friendly to-day to the 9th Battalion, and every other French Canadian battalion, as I have ever been, and I am prepared to meet his accusations here, or elsewhere, whenever he chooses to bring them forward, and in discussing these accusations I shall have the official records which must speak for themselves. I shall not attempt to go into a discussion of any of these matters without having the papers brought before Parliament.

Mr. LANGELIER moved that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. AMYOT. I am told that I have changed my views on the Riel question. I would like to know where. Is it in the county of Bellechasse?

Sir ADOLPHE CARON. Yes.

Mr. AMYOT. My majority there, which was 142, is now 640; and the hon. gentleman must remember that some years ago, when he begged of me to help him, he was defeated by 632 in the same county. He speaks of public opinion and changing one's mind. What has he done in the district of Quebec, of which he has taken charge? First, in the Local House he lost power to the Conservative party. Through his selfishness he took away from Quebec many leading citizens who would have given the majority to Carbray in Quebec west. He brought them to the county of Quebec, where he spent, I do not know how many thousands of dollars, but where potatoes were bought at \$25 a bushel. Had he spent a little money for legal organisation in L'Islet and other counties, he would have won five or six more counties, and the Conservative party would still be in power in Quebec, but no, he wanted the county of Quebec to be made sure for his own election. He lost power to the Conservatives in the Local House, and in the Federal House we know that, out of twenty-one counties, he lost seventeen. That is the great influential man, the man who is so devoted to his country, the man who has a right to say to those who devoted themselves truly to the country: You are cowards—because that is what he means. Did the great man leave his family and go to war? No, he stayed peacefully in his office, with more servants than before, and with the expectation of titles and honors. That is his share. Where is his self-sacrifice? All his sacrifice is this: When he has got blind men to follow him, he does his best for them; when he has men who act according to the dictates of their conscience, and who oppose him, he wants to destroy them. That is where his usefulness appears, but for the rest he says he has no time to look into it. He has no time to look into the accounts. I tell the hon. gentleman that, as leader in the district of Quebec, he lost that district for the Federal Government, and that in regard to the Local Legislature, he lost power for the Conservatives. I speak as an old Conservative. I speak as one who has fought the battles of that party since 1864, as one who has never obtained anything for his work, but has sacrificed much. If the hon. gentleman had carried the district of Quebec for his party, as the district of Montreal and the district of Three Rivers have been carried, the position of his party would be different to-day, but there are not many in that district who believe in him, because he lives on false promises and insults to his opponents. He insulted the commander of the 9th Battalion and the officers of that battalion, and the suspension of the 9th Battalion has made him most unpopular. He is a man who does not look into the future of his country. What has he done for the future of his country? He has promised a railway from Cap Rouge to Lorette. He has carried his county that way. Where is that famous railway now? He knows quite well that the population of the district of Quebec price him at his just value. He may try to insult me, but I am never afraid to meet him. He

Sir ADOLPHE CARON.

must remember when he refused to meet me during the last campaign. I am ready to meet him at any time; I am not afraid of my past, and I think my present is full of patriotism. I left the favors of the Administration to follow my convictions. Can he boast of doing that? Now he insults me, because I went to the North-West. I gave up everything. Did I know, when I left my family, that I would not be killed in the battle? Who told me? I made the sacrifice. Did he make the sacrifice? He never made any such thing. The hon. gentleman has said once that I offered my services. I draw his attention to this, and I defy him to contradict me: When the agitation in the North-West began, I received the following telegram—I was then here in my seat:—

“QUEBEC, March 30th, 1885.

“Officers of the 9th, assembled, request me to enquire from you if there is any probability of being called out.

“T. ROY,

“*Lt.-Col. Commanding.*”

I went to the Minister of Militia and asked him what to answer. It was rather painful to me to go against the half-breeds, but I thought that, under the peculiar circumstances which we French Canadians occupied in the Confederation, it was important that there should be some French Canadian battalions in the North-West. I communicated with the Minister reluctantly, but I was bound to do so. He answered me that he would give me a definite answer the next day, and the next day he called us out. Well, we had to go. It was a hard task. The temperature at that time was not very nice, and to fight against our own blood is repulsive—human nature is there. My answer was, at the request of the hon. Minister, this:

“*Lt.-Col. THOMAS ROY, Quebec.*

“Probably called out. Do you prefer called now, to be in readiness, or only on the eve of starting?”

Immediately on being called out, I went down. The number of telegrams I received, urging me to hurry up, was immense. I will read two of them, Mr. Speaker, because, perhaps, you are personally interested in them:

“OTTAWA, 1st April, 1885.

“Let me know when you will be ready to start. I am anxious that you should be ahead of Montreal regiment. Answer.

“A. P. CARON.”

Why was he anxious that the Quebec regiment should be ahead of the Montreal regiment? There must be some reason. Perhaps, if we were to go to the bottom, you would not find anything against me in that. Here is another:

“Do not delay for supplies. Whatever is deficient will be forwarded to you.”

Forwarded to us? Perhaps some old goods were forwarded to us, but we were missing a great number, and we are not yet paid the \$8 to which every man is entitled for the underclothing. Some regiments have been paid. I am told that those who were friendly have been paid, but where the commander is unfriendly—to be paid? oh, no; it would not do. Here is another, which I suppose will interest you, Mr. Speaker:

“OTTAWA, April 2, 1885.

“DeBlois going with you as surgeon. He is authorised to purchase what is required—

You see that is not any request of mine. I am informed that he goes with me—

“He is authorised to purchase what is required to fill medicine chest. Instruments will be forwarded from here. I am anxious that you should show how rapidly a Quebec regiment can move. Hurry up.”

Why so anxious to show that a Quebec regiment may move rapidly, and why had he been so anxious that the Quebec regiment should be ahead of Montreal? No doubt the Minister of Militia will be able to explain that.