

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Why, it was published in the Grit papers of British Columbia.

"TORONTO, 24th February, 1887.

"To J. C. McLAGAN.

"Thank Victoria Liberals for congratulations. May they do their duty and complete a Liberal triumph.

"EDWARD BLAKE."

This was sent two days after the election had been held. Now, Sir, let us return for a moment to the question of the Senate. I was led away by the eloquent speech of the hon. member for North Norfolk, to follow him in his rather discursive discourse into things in general. The hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) stated that he objected to there being a disproportion between the number represented and the number of representatives. Well, that is to a certain extent the case in these small communities. The same objection was taken when Manitoba was granted a constitution as a Province. It had then a very small population indeed; but it was argued in the House—and Parliament saw the reasonableness of the argument—that it would be of no use to give them one man to sit in the Senate without a friend to communicate with in regard to the affairs of his Province. The proper course was to give them a certain number, and provide that that number should not be increased until the population of the Province reached a certain point, when it would fall into the same arrangement of representation by population provided by the British North America Act for the other Provinces. I suppose Manitoba will now very nearly have her right by population to the number of senators she has now. At any rate, the number will not be increased until the population will give the Province the right to have it increased under the provisions of the British North America Act. I think, Sir, this Act will meet with the general approbation of the country. I did not in my remarks say that the whole country was in favor of the Senate. I did not speak of the popularity or unpopularity of the Senate. What I said was that during my political travels through Ontario last autumn and winter, the question of altering the constitution of the Senate or abrogating the Senate altogether was never once alluded to by any speaker or by any person I communicated with during the whole of my travels, so that it could not be a burning question in any sense of the word. It was not alluded to. Nobody asked me: Are you going to alter the constitution of the Senate? I heard a great many enquiries about the matters in which the people were interested, and discussed various questions of importance in public and private during my itinerary, but that question was never put to me from the beginning to the end of my journey.

Mr. DAVIES. I am sure, Sir, no one will grudge the hon. gentleman the time he has taken in singing his little song of victory over the events of the 22nd of February last. He has a right to put a little pluck into his followers. While I admit he has a very accurate knowledge of all that transpires in his own party, I do not think his knowledge extends with equal accuracy to the transactions of his opponents, and he is a little premature in stating that he knows exactly what arrangements were made by us in expectation of the victory. I have no hesitation in saying that we hoped and expected, as we had a right to hope and expect, a victory, and if we did not achieve that victory, no one knows better than the hon. gentleman that our defeat was due to foul and not to fair means. The hon. gentleman smiles, but he knows that what I say is correct. No one in Canada has a better knowledge of this than he, for he superintended the arrangements and devices of his party. The right hon. gentleman intimates that during a rather extended campaign in the Province of Ontario, he had never heard the

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question of the Senate discussed by the people, and he did not think the people took much interest in it. As far as I can gather from reading of the progress of the hon. gentleman in the "Jamaica," he took good care to deliver his address from platforms where he was surrounded by members of the Government, and where there were no political opponents to challenge his statements. It was not likely he would, at those meetings, hear any matters discussed except those which it was in his own interest to bring before the people. Be that as it may, if the hon. gentleman's information with respect to the political feeling of the other Provinces before the elections, is as inaccurate as his statements with reference to Prince Edward Island, there is not much reliance to be placed on it. He has ventured to say that an important factor in the campaign in Prince Edward Island, where the Reformers did their duty by returning a solid plank to oppose the right hon. gentleman, was threats used against the civil servants of the country.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Hear, hear.

Mr. DAVIES. I have no hesitation, at this the earliest opportunity, in telling the hon. gentleman that there is no foundation whatever for the statement; and I challenge him to bring before the House the name of the author of that statement, in order that I may give it particular denial. The campaign was conducted there, so far as we were concerned, in a fair, open manner, on broad political issues, such as the action of the Government in connection with the fisheries, in connection with the question of reciprocity, and the question of expenditure, and all other great questions which should come before the people; and I can assure the hon. gentleman that while we succeeded in gaining the support of the electorate of that Province upon these questions, and upon them alone, we were not met in exactly the same way by the hon. gentleman. No one knows better than he that the project of constructing a tunnel across the straits received his *imprimatur*, a very few days before the elections, and that his letter was circulated through the island. True, with his usual caution, he guarded himself, so that when the letter is read in Parliament, it will be seen he has not positively bound himself to the expenditure of so much money. His followers cheer that. I admit he is an adept at writing political letters of that kind, which to the electors may mean a great deal, but which to the hon. gentleman when called upon to keep his promise, mean nothing.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There was no promise.

Mr. DAVIES. The people were led to believe there was a promise, and no man knows it better than the right hon. gentleman. But the assumed promise, the letter which his supporters said contained a promise or a pledge, was circulated from one end of the Province to the other, and the reliance the people placed upon the word of the right hon. gentleman is seen in the representation they have sent here. The hon. gentleman was disposed to deal with the Province still more kindly. Rumor has it, the Local Government leaders stated it on every platform, that they had a letter from the hon. gentleman, telling them he had placed \$500,000 to the credit of the people of Prince Edward Island, in the hope they would return six men to support him here. I wonder if the right hon. gentleman is prepared to deny that he gave members of the Local Government the assurance that \$500,000 would be placed at the credit of the Province.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I gave no such assurance.

Mr. DAVIES. If he did not, his most prominent supporters in the Island will stand branded before the people as having been guilty of a wicked and a most deliberate lie.