

and roughs who infest the taverns of Winnipeg. These men have no influence except for mischief, but they might light a flame it would be hard to extinguish. For a few days I felt the danger was extreme. The only possible way to avoid a serious outbreak was to get rid of the two men whose presence in the country formed the pretext for the action of the roughs at Winnipeg."

We have said that the action of the Ontario Government was not altogether unexpected; and steps had been taken by the Dominion Government to render that action innoxious as far as disturbing the peace of Manitoba by attempting the arrest of Riel was concerned, by providing for the withdrawal of Riel and Lépine to the United States for a while, until the excitement had blown over. It seems curious that the Government of the Dominion should not only connive at, but actually assist, the escape of criminals from justice, while the Government of one of the Provinces should see fit to offer a reward for the apprehension of those same criminals; but it must be remembered that the circumstances were peculiar in every respect. The Dominion Government was a Coalition one, the main strength of which was the French Conservative Members from Quebec—or, to be more exact, Sir George E. Cartier, who represented that party; the Quebec Members were almost unanimously of opinion not only that no prosecutions for anything arising out of the troubles in the North-West should take place, but that the Imperial Government should be urged to grant a complete amnesty for past offences; on the other hand, a number of the Ontario supporters of the Government were Orangemen, who not only opposed the granting of an amnesty, but were urging that the ringleaders of the insurgents should be tried for the murder of Scott. To conciliate these conflicting opinions so as to maintain the Government was no easy task. To advocate the granting of an amnesty was to lose the support