

dian Governor on his touching the soil of Manitoba. Instead of such a *dénouement*, what was the profound dissatisfaction of the people, what was their intense feeling of humiliation and deception, when they were informed that no amnesty had been granted, and that they would have to flee for their lives from the country they had just liberated. A great deal was said about the expedition of our troops across the portages between Lake Superior and the Red River; a great deal was said in the English reviews of the wonderful feat accomplished by our volunteers under the guidance of Col. Wolseley. I know that his proclamation is not generally known in Canada; but I was in Fort Garry myself twenty-four hours before the arrival of the troops. I saw Col. Wolseley coming to the fort, with his troops displayed in order of battle, and I know he had not a single shot to fire nor a gate to break open; there was not a man, not even a child, to fight with, to gain possession of the fort. What was, then, his proclamation the next day? I take it from the report of the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Dawson), who thought it was rather a piece of curiosity, and therefore inserted it in his report to the Public Works Department at that time. Col. Wolseley, the day after his arrival at Fort Garry, issued the following proclamation:—

"From Prince Arthur's Landing to Fort Garry is over 600 miles, through a wilderness of forest and water, where no supplies of any description are obtainable. You had to carry on your backs a vast amount of supplies over no less than 47 portages, making a total distance of seven miles, a feat unparalleled in our military annals. You have descended a great river, esteemed so dangerous from its rapids, falls and whirlpools, that none but experienced voyageurs attempt its navigation. Your cheerful obedience to orders has enabled you, under the blessing of Divine Providence, to accomplish your task without any accident.

"Although the banditti who had been oppressing this people fled at your approach, without giving you an opportunity of proving how men capable of such labor could fight, you have deserved as well of your country as if you had won a battle."

Now Mr. Dawson, the hon. member for Algoma, adds this:

"This is no doubt very eloquent, and the soldiers deserved all that could be said in their praise, but as it occurs in a document which will doubtless be placed on record, I must protest against its being accepted as a correct representation of the state of matters existing in the Red River settlement when the troops arrived.

"The people to whom he alludes, instead of flying at his approach, like banditti, were quietly following their usual occupations, except those who were out, at his particular request, making a road to facilitate the movements of Her Majesty's troops, and the soldiers had had experienced guides on the Winnipeg, although the contrary is implied."

Those people expected that a complete amnesty would reach that country before the arrival of the troops; they were perfectly ready to receive the Canadian Government; they had organised a demonstration to welcome Mr. Archibald, the first Lieutenant Governor of that country. Col. Wolseley's proclamation, calling these people banditti, calling them cowards, because he had not the chance of firing a shot against them, caused very naturally great humiliation, and, I must say, exasperation in the minds of those people. Col. Wolseley had no right to call them banditti; he had no more right than the hon. member for East York (Mr. Mackenzie), in a speech he delivered in Toronto in 1872. When you call a whole population banditti, thieves and robbers, and when you call them cowards, no wonder if these people, whose minds had been already poisoned by the ill-doings of some officials, resent the humiliation inflicted upon them. Such was the state of affairs at the arrival of the troops at Fort Garry in 1878. The expedition of those troops had been asked for by the heads of the people in that colony, but certainly it would not have been asked for if they had believed the arrival of the troops would have been followed by such results. The whole population was insulted by such a proclamation, and the events that followed showed that population that Canada, instead of considering them as people whose rights had to be respected, looked upon them as a nation whose fate was not worth

that of the Indian. In the presence of these facts, is it improper for me to say they are the remote cause of the troubles which occurred last spring on the Saskatchewan? It has been in their bosom ever since 1870, and some years before, that they had been unjustly dealt with, and that Canada, instead of being a country friendly to them, was a receptacle of foes and opponents. In the presence of the facts I have just mentioned, is it improper for me to say that those facts are some of the causes of the troubles of last spring on the Saskatchewan? The half-breeds, from that moment, looked upon Canadians as faithless invaders, as a people totally foreign to all sentiments of justice, fair play, patriotism and public honor and dignity. They returned to their homes with the deep-seated feelings of the injustice, humiliation and insult with which they, as a nation, had been treated; the good faith of their devoted bishop and clergy had been abused and surprised; their natural leaders were in exile, and the machinery of Government was entrusted to them to organise, when it had been made impossible for them to take advantage of. I have been a witness to their sorrows, to their complaints, and to the utter want of respect which they had towards the Government and institutions of my country. Such scenes I will never forget. I was then able to realise how criminal to their country had been, and still are, those politicians and journalists whose only programme is to appeal to religious or national prejudices in a country like ours, and such was the programme of the *Globe* for the last thirty years. In fact, a whole generation has grown up in Ontario under the teachings of that paper. But the complement of the policy of the *Globe* and its partisans was the promise made by the leader of the Opposition when he was in the Government of Ontario, and promised \$5,000 for the capture of Riel and his accomplices. In the remarks I have made, I have tried to show that the people with whom we had to deal in 1870 was a distinct people, was a nationality by itself, was a people that had its own national characteristics, its own institutions, its own social life; that that people was entirely different from ours, that their ideas of civilisation were not altogether those we have; and I have tried to show that they were forgotten in the agreement which was entered into by the Hudson Bay Company and the Canadian Government, in 1869. Whether it was the fault of the Hudson's Bay Company, as stated by the leader of the Government, or not, I do not know, but I must say that we have to deal now with the causes of the recent troubles, and the causes of a remote nature are some of those which I have cited. Owing to the distance, owing to the impossibility of exercising a proper check upon the conduct of Canadian officials in the North-West, those officials have been, to a great extent, the cause of the discontent, the suspicion and the hostility shown by the natives of that country to Canada; and these remote causes, the existence of which I have cited, were causes which it did not lay in the power of any Government to deal with or to make disappear. I cannot help making a contrast between the expedition of the Canadian volunteers in 1870 and the expedition of the volunteers which has recently taken place.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Adjourn.

Mr. McMULLEN moved the adjournment of the debate

Mr. TROW. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Royal) has taken his seat, and he cannot speak a second time.

Mr. ROYAL. I see that hon. gentlemen opposite do not like to hear the truth on some points.

Mr. McMULLEN. The hon. gentleman took his seat, and I moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. ROYAL. In the course of my remarks—

Mr. TROW. The hon. gentleman took his seat.