

have no fault to find, a man with whom all my relations have been of the most pleasant character, I acquiesced in it, though the people in my country were opposed to the appointment. They were opposed to having a French Governor appointed to that important position, possessing the powers that such a Governor possessed, because they did not think it was an appointment that the importance of the French population of that country warranted. The press was not silent. The people were expressing that opinion, and, when I was a member of the North-West Council, I heard the same opinion expressed. I at once undertook to allay the feelings that existed in the country, and wrote letters to my constituents, right and left, telling them that they would find Mr. Royal to be a man who would administer the laws of the country with entire satisfaction; and no man could do more than I then did to make Mr. Royal's installation into office pleasant and comfortable; and no man could have been more pleased with the reception that he got from the people of these Territories when he came into office. The people felt that no wrong had been done to them in appointing a Frenchman to that important office, but when he opened the Assembly he was himself responsible largely for the change in the condition of things. When I was a member of the Assembly I never heard any fault found about the dual language. There was no question about it at all; I hardly knew that it was on the Statute-book, and there would not have been any fault found with it had it not been that Mr. Royal undertook to force the French language on the people of that country. There were 22 elected members representing the North-West Territories, and not one of them could speak the French language at all. Mr. Royal was conversant with that fact, yet he read his speech in French. Not one of the members of the House understood him, and the ceremony was neither edifying nor amusing. During the four years we had Mr. Forget as Clerk of the Council no fault was found with the French language. We did not say we should have an English clerk as well as a French clerk. Mr. Forget was a satisfactory officer. But Mr. Royal not only read his speech in French, but he brought up a French gentleman from Quebec to act as

interpreter, and undertook to put the whole French system into operation in the North-West; and then it was that the agitation commenced by the people declaring that they did not want French as an official language. We in the North-West prior to that time mapped out those districts. We had considerable trouble in doing so. I was a member of the Council at the time, and know all about it. We had a great deal of difficulty to arrange the number of representatives for the districts of Alberta, Assiniboia and Saskatchewan. We finally arranged that twenty-two would be a fair representation of the different parts of the Territory. We went to work in the Commons with the advice and consent of my former colleagues, the gentlemen whom I had left in the North-West Council, because it was the same Council in which I had resigned my position to run for the Dominion—and with the advice and consent of these men we framed the electoral divisions as they now are in that country. They were so framed by these men with a due and just regard for the interests of the people. My hon. friend made reference yesterday in his remarks to Mr. Cunningham. Mr. Cunningham is a nice man, an Irish Half-breed, who lives at St. Albert. He is the gentleman who would probably represent that section of the country if it were sub-divided as my hon. friend desires; but he is not a scholarly man in any respect. During all the time he was in the North-West Assembly he never took any active part in the proceedings; he is not that kind of man. This same district is now represented by an able, intelligent man: I refer to Mr. Oliver. The French people voted for him. He was the candidate of their choice, and they elected him in preference to Mr. Cunningham, because they believed he would be a better man to look after their rights and interests than a man who would simply go there and vote, and had not the ability to look after the interests of the district. The hon. gentleman says the Half-breeds have 800 votes in that district. If they have, they will be able to elect two representatives of their own as the district now stands. It would not be right for me to remain in my seat and listen to any gentleman making reflections on the progress of the North-West, and declaring that there is a want of justice towards the Half-breeds in those districts.