

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Speaker—

Mr. GIROUARD. If the last speaker will not answer, I will put the question to the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills).

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. MILLS. The reservation was surveyed out so as to exactly suit the river lot system, so as to grant lots 10 chains in width and 2 miles in depth, and I have the map here, and I can show the hon. gentleman that it has been since changed.

Mr. GIROUARD. I will ask the hon. gentleman to show it immediately. Show it.

Mr. MILLS. There it is.

Mr. GIROUARD. Do you pretend that this map shows that the surveys made in 1878 were re-surveyed? There is no such proof, and you cannot produce any.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Look at it again.

Mr. GIROUARD. You may look at it again. This map shows, as it showed at all times, that they took the rectangular system of survey at St. Laurent, more or less.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. GIROUARD. Yes, I say more or less. I am referring to the surveys made in 1878. They were made at Prince Albert 10 chains by 2 miles, but as to St. Laurent, the surveys were 20 chains or more and 1 mile as they are to-day. These surveys have never been remade, and I am going to show immediately that these surveys were made in 1878 under the late Administration and not under the present Administration; and, if all the anathemas and maledictions of the last speaker ought to fall upon anybody, they ought to fall upon the late Administration. In the report of the Minister of the Interior for 1878, this reference is made to the surveys of the settlements of Prince Albert and St. Laurent, and, as the present Government came to office only in October, 1878, you cannot possibly imagine that these surveys were made under the direction of the present Government.

"Surveys of the settlements of Prince Albert and St. Laurent on the Saskatchewan, in the North-West Territories, were made; also a small survey involving the alteration of certain lines in the settlement belt in the Parish of Ste. Agathe, in Manitoba." (Sessional papers, 1879.)

There is another reference to the same survey made by Mr. Lindsay Russell, in his report dated 31st December, 1878. It says:

"Owing to their remoteness, and the comparatively late date at which their survey was commenced, the full returns and reports for them have not yet been received. They are all in the vicinity of Prince Albert settlement, and in the country included between the north and south branches of the Saskatchewan, near their junction. The survey of the river frontage lots in that settlement, and also of the similar lots for half the settlement of St. Laurent on the south branch, was effected."

I think I have disposed of nearly the whole argument of the last speaker. But suppose, as the late Minister of the Interior said, that these surveys, although made as river lots in the beginning, had been resurveyed according to the rectangular system; suppose more than that, that these half-breeds had been treated purely and simply like white settlers, are we going to be told that these were grievances grave enough to justify an appeal to arms? Are you going to compare these grievances with the grievances of the French Canadians of 1837? Are you going to compare the present state of the French population in the North-West, where they number about 5,000 or 6,000 with the state of the French population in Lower Canada in 1837, when they were about half a million? Look at the grievances of the French Canadians in 1837, having a large majority in the Assembly, but being taxed by the Legis-

lative Council and the Governor not responsible to the people. Is there any comparison between the two cases? There is nothing of the kind, and I repeat that, supposing the half-breeds had all the grievances which the hon. gentleman has mentioned—which they have not—they had no ground, no reason for a rebellion. If we were going to maintain the principle that the population under those circumstances would be justified in appealing to arms, I would like to know if the whole of this country would not have been justified in resorting to arms during the five years of the Administration of hon. gentlemen opposite from 1873 to 1878 not only a portion of the country, but from one end of it to the other. The last speaker says that the doings of the Mackenzie Administration had nothing to do with the question. Sir, that is not the way I intend to consider this question. I intend to examine the policy, the conduct, and the acts of the last Administration as well as of this one. What is the motion before the House? The motion is that the people have no confidence in the present Government, and they should give their confidence to the hon. gentlemen opposite; therefore I am bound to examine wherein the hon. gentlemen opposite would do better than this Government, and in order to ascertain that I must examine what they did when they were in power. In order to understand the bearings of this whole question it would be necessary to examine, first, the position of the country when the Canadian Government came in possession of it in 1869; in the second place to examine the treatment of the Indians who were to be found in large numbers in that territory; and, in the third place, to glance at the so-called grievances of the half-breeds. As soon as Confederation was formed the Canadian Government took the initiatory steps to secure that vast country lying west of Ontario then known as Rupert's Land and North-Western Territory. During the Session of 1867-68 an address to Her Majesty was voted by Parliament, asking that that vast territory should be added to the Dominion, and in the following year it was acquired for £300,000 from the Hudson Bay Company, the then proprietors, by the Canadian Government, acting through Sir George Cartier and the Hon. Wm. Macdougall. When moving that address before this House, Mr. Macdougall said:

"The great idea of the Confederation Act was, that we should form one people from east to west, a new nationality side by side, with the Republic, which was our only safe and true policy. All the relations between Great Britain and these colonies had been changed by the great war in the United States, and it was the opinion of the statesmen of the Mother Country, that we must reconstruct and in so doing, we must bear some burdens to provide an increase of population, with our own instincts, and to whom we could offer the rights and privileges enjoyed in the Mother Country. With this idea the Government had resolved to ask Great Britain to hand over to us the sovereignty of the North-West Territory."

In 1873 a large addition was made to this country by a concession from the Imperial Government of the balance of the British possessions in North America, and thus Canada became the largest country in the world, Russia and China alone excepted.

Mr. MACKENZIE. When did that event happen?

Mr. GIROUARD. This happened in 1873.

Mr. MACKENZIE. I think you had better consult your authorities.

Mr. GIROUARD. The territory was acquired in 1873.

Mr. MACKENZIE. But the hon. gentleman said the balance of the continent was acquired in 1873.

Mr. GIROUARD. That is the date, I think.

Mr. MACKENZIE. There is some mistake.

Mr. GIROUARD. I do not think it is material to the debate. My impression is that it was in 1873.

Mr. MACKENZIE. It was four years after.