

" You will have learned that the representations made by you to the Dominion Government have received attention, and many of the requests made acted upon, while others are under consideration. I am quite sure that should you feel the necessity of making further representations during the present Session, they will receive the same consideration at the hands of the Dominion Government."

Now, if grievances had existed of such a magnitude as to create a rebellion, would not some of the distinguished visitors to the North-West last summer have made some mention of it? In the first place, Manitoba and the North-West were visited by the Minister of Public Works. The *Free Press*, of Winnipeg, and *Le Manitoba*, of the 11th September of the same year, contain a statement that:

" The Minister of Public Works had come, with the sanction of the Government, to know the wants and feelings of the people and their grievances, if grievances they had. They might be sure that their grievances would be well weighed at Ottawa and that justice would be done."

Only one interview was mentioned by the leader of the Opposition, which some of the half-breeds had with the Minister of Public Works, and what answer did they get? Did they get an answer that they would be treated like white settlers? The Minister of Public Works answered that their claims would receive favorable consideration as soon as he will reach Ottawa. Now, Mr. Speaker, upon this invitation of the Minister of Public Works, the *Free Press* made some remarks. It pointed out to the Minister some grievances, and asked him to visit south-western Manitoba, where he would hear of some complaints. But no allusion is made to the grievances which existed, if any existed, in the North-West Territory. Manitoba and the North-West were also visited by Sir Richard Cartwright, the member for South Huron, and by the hon. Mr. Mackenzie, the member for East York, at the same time. A banquet was offered to Mr. Mackenzie, at Winnipeg, and an address was read to him by the Liberals of that part of the country. This address is dated on the 2nd of September, 1884, and says, among other things:

" We have a country unsurpassed in climate, fertility of soil and other natural advantages, but its development is retarded by a fiscal policy unjust to this portion of the Dominion. We feel that in this matter, and in the policy of the Dominion, with regard to our public lands and our provincial railway legislation, we have been treated without a fair regard to our peculiar position and our rights to an equality with the other Provinces of Canada. We wish to draw attention to the necessity for such assistance to our railway enterprises as will promptly develop this great country, and for such an increase in the representation of Manitoba and the North-West in the Parliament of Canada as will insure greater consideration for our interests."

Now, Mr. Speaker, these Reformers of Manitoba and the North-West complain of the National Policy, but the half-breeds of St. Laurent and the white settlers of the North-West did not make any such complaints. Do we hear anything of the grievances of the half-breeds, or even of the white settlers, which have been mentioned at their meetings? Not a word. The Hon. Mr. McDougall also visited Winnipeg about the same time. Some of his admirers also gave him a banquet. The whole subject of the conversation and the speeches turned upon Manitoba and the North-West. I have seen the reports of the speeches which were delivered on that occasion, and not a single reference is made to the grievances of the white settlers, or of the half-breeds of the North-West, laid down by the meetings which I have mentioned. But there is more. Mr. Dewdney visited St. Albert on the 16th October, 1884. The report of his visit is given in *Le Manitoba*, of the 7th of November of that year: Several addresses were presented to him by the citizens, and Monseigneur Grandin, in the name of the clergy, containing sentiments of loyalty to the Canadian Government and Canadian institutions. A banquet was even tendered to him at the Bishop's Palace. A committee of citizens, with Mr. E. Maloney at their head, met the Lieutenant Governor, in order to make certain requests of him in the public interest. They asked, first, the purchase of a bridge on the Red River, and to make it a free bridge.

Mr. GIROUARD.

They also ask that those portions of the supplies intended for the Indians should be bought in the district, where they could be supplied more advantageously than in any other place. They said His Honor promised to take into consideration their demands, and do everything he could to satisfy them. Not a word was said during that meeting, held only a few months before the rebellion, against the Government; nothing but praise and admiration for the policy of the Government. Something was said last night by the leader of the Government of the action which the white settlers in the North-West have taken in this rebellion. I believe that the white settlers, I do not say the whole of them, but some of them, and they include parties acting on behalf of American colonisation companies, had more to do with this rebellion, of the spring of 1885, than the half-breeds and Indians. Let me read to you an article from the *Globe*, of 21st November, I will not say 1884, but 1883, and this article is only a sample of numerous inflammatory articles which, from time to time, have been published by that newspaper. It is as follows:—

" The American press is already holding out to our distressed brethren active sympathy and promise of help. In one day's exchanges we find nearly a dozen of the most influential papers of the Union telling the people of Manitoba they must break with the Dominion, which is treating them scandalously. Let there be no more of ostrich-like tucking of the head in the sand and refusing to see what is patent to every body. The organisation movement of Manitoba means business. It means that justice must be done. Ottawa methods must be revolutionized, and that quickly."

A letter from a special correspondent of the *Globe* at Winnipeg is headed " Manitoba troubles. Discontent coming to a head in the prairie Province. Result of a series of blunders. The farmers will have their rights by some means. Down with monopoly. Threatening to burn elevators and tear up railways. The situation very serious." The correspondent says:

" All through the controversy which has been raging in regard to the Government of this country no newspaper has displayed a fuller knowledge of the requirements of this country than the *Globe*, nor has it gone beyond the mark in predicting that, unless good government be at once vouchsafed to us, our position in Confederation will every day become more a matter of form, and that finally we will shake ourselves loose from the monotonous burden and seek some more congenial government. There is no doubt that the Canadians are a loyal people; they love their institutions and their traditions, but they are common-sense people as well, and will not allow their generous sentiments to be used against them, to compel them to sit still while other loyal people are steadily accomplishing their ruin."

" The day has gone by when, by a peculiar perversion, forms of government were worshipped for themselves, and every Canadian, at any rate, has learned that Governments are made for the conveniences of men, and not men for the glory of Governments. The day has come when the lumbering blue mould appendages of Government must be scattered to the four winds, and when a system of government is chosen like a particular kind of reaping machine—because it is the best for the purposes for which it is required, and for no mysterious or awful reason whatever. This is especially the case in Manitoba and the North-West. The country is young; the population is made up of all nationalities; people have come here to make money. We are independent of the eastern Provinces. We are not independent of the United States."

I shall now close these very long remarks, which have been much longer than I should have liked to have made them. I am not in the habit, as every member knows, of making long speeches. In fact, I very seldom trouble the House with speeches or remarks. I have been long on this occasion, it is true, but everyone will admit that the subject is important, everyone will admit, moreover, that it is new. I have not been as long as the leader of the Opposition, who spent seven hours, and did not touch the Indian question, an important element in the examination of the whole case. I cannot close these remarks without making an appeal to the Government, which, I hope, will receive their favorable consideration: it is to exercise its clemency in favor of the prisoners now confined at Regina. I have just pointed out that those poor half-breeds and Indians are not, after all, so much to blame as the great organ of the Liberal party in this Dominion. I do not want to make any reference to any special case. I have carefully