

how unjust their dealings may be. But it must be remembered that individuals have rights as well as nations, and the same mode of procedure to obtain redress may be pursued by individuals as by nations. Many of the great safeguards of our rights and liberties, which we as British subjects are so proud of, have been secured by the rebellion of the people against aristocratic tyranny and oppression. The great question is to determine when grievances are sufficiently grave to justify rebellion.

Now, with regard to the North-West, it is admitted on all hands that there are grievances. Whether these are of sufficient magnitude to justify them in taking up arms, and whether they have used all other means in their power to obtain redress from the Government before resorting to such extreme measures, is the question we must decide before we can justly brand these men as outlaws, undeserving of mercy. We have to admit that we are not in possession of sufficient information to pronounce either one way or the other. But one grave mistake they have made is in asking Riel to be their leader. By taking this step they have lost the sympathy of the country; and everyone feels that that murderer must be put *hors de combat* before any government can treat with them. His red-handed deeds are too fresh in the memories of all to admit of any favorable consideration, and so long as the rebels look up to him as their leader, they need never expect the State to treat with them. To treat with Riel would be to treat with a criminal, and would never be approved of by the Christian public.

But, on the other hand, granting that their grievances are sufficient to warrant them in taking up arms, they should be willing to lay them down if the Government promises to consider their grievances and rectify them as far as possible. This the Government surely ought to be willing to do. We have no doubt, from what can be gathered concerning their grievances, that many, if not all, of the rebels would peaceably return to their homesteads were this done. On this ground we still hope for a peaceful solution of the difficulty, and a removal of the causes which led to rebellion, so that these people may feel that their rights are respected, and exercise that confidence in the governing body without which peace and prosperity cannot exist. However, until a proper understanding is reached, there must be an armed force sufficient to protect the settlers and meet any emergency that may arise.

We may also make reference here to the alacrity with which our volunteers responded to the call, and also to the warlike enthusiasm stirred up in the hearts of all—women as well as men. The scene at Union Station on the departure of the Queen's Own and Royal Grenadiers, when thousands turned out to cheer them, will not soon be forgotten by those who witnessed it. Our young Canadians have shown to the world that although we are a peaceful and law-abiding nation, yet when the Commonwealth is threatened and the call to arms resounds throughout the land, we are not lacking in true patriotism; and should any foreign power attempt an invasion of our country they would meet with a serious and determined opposition.

However, we hope for a peaceful settlement of the present difficulty, and if this cannot be, that right and justice may prevail. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." The rebellion will, no doubt, retard the progress of the country for this year at least. New settlers cannot be expected to go in until quietness is restored and the causes of the disturbance removed, and this will require considerable legislation. But when this is done we may expect a more prosperous time than ever to dawn upon that great country which is destined yet to become the home of millions.