

thing. We did not want to explain the thing. We do not want to explain it until it is over. First let it be put down, let the law be vindicated, let the insurrection be suppressed, and then let the gentleman bring as many votes as he likes, as many charges as he likes, but let him not appeal to the organs of the press. And, by the same token, he reads a number of sensational despatches going to these different newspapers, as if they were true, as if the Government were responsible for them. I suppose, if the Government is responsible for the newspaper, then it is responsible for every sensational piece of information that comes to it from any source over the wires. That is the hon. gentleman's style. What do you think, Mr. Speaker? I take it that all these rumors come from Winnipeg. Winnipeg, for all practical purposes, is not so far from the scene of action as we are. We get the news as quickly as they do; but, of course, from the fact that the Métis and the Indians are nearer to them, they are more interested than we are; and, like all persons specially interested, they are timid, they are nervous; one man frightens another; the story goes that there are fifteen policemen killed, that the stores have been sacked, that Fort Carlton has fallen; and all these come from Winnipeg. We all know how it is with correspondents, especially the man that handles the wires; when he has a sensational story on one hand and the truth on the other, I rather think that he will neglect the true and prefer to send the sensational story. And this is the foundation, the sole foundation, on which the leader of Her Majesty's Opposition gets up a story here for the purpose of its going home—not for the purpose—God forbid I should say so—but it will have the effect of going to England, and of enabling the enemies of Canada, of enabling those who try to stop emigration to Canada, those who try to discredit us, who try to prevent our great railways from getting credit in England, to accomplish their purpose, if that were possible. It will go, Mr. Speaker. I got a cablegram from Sir Charles Tupper, wanting to know about it—he had heard of it himself—and he wanted to know if it was the case. Of course it came from St. Paul and Minneapolis, from some of the American railways, and from New York. He said he had heard that three Indian chiefs had joined Riel, and that he had a thousand men under his command. That was the telegram published in England. But the hon. gentleman spoke and cited these sensational paragraphs. His speech will go to England, and it will get an importance, Mr. Speaker, which it would not otherwise have obtained. But the hon. gentleman says: Oh! we must have been frightened ourselves, because we took possession of Fort Carlton, and sent 100 men up there during last year. Well, Sir, we did not take Fort Carlton in the first place; and, in the second place, we did not send 100 men. We have our police force moving from one part to the other. I suppose that the most active army of Uhlans, during the French and German war, or of Cossacks, never have moved so continuously and so speedily and successfully as that small body of men over that immense country. Well, Sir, before Riel came in these settlers had never sent in a Bill of Rights to us, never sent any complaints to the Government. We saw in the papers, in the same way, I suppose, that he has seen these sensational despatches—we saw that Riel had arrived there, and was asking for everything. The grievances that have been spoken about in reference to their lands were never scarcely noticed by them in comparison to other things. Riel came in there. As the hon. gentleman says, he made his profit out of it before, and he came in there again, perhaps driven to poverty and starvation by bad habits and ill-luck. He had too readily listened to the invitation of the poor, starving people, the Métis, in the vicinity of Duck Lake. He came there for his own purpose. He had excited them, and made them believe he was a sort of El Mahdi. He had led them in the great war—unfortunately, but the unfortunate chief has always had the

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sentiment of the people with him, like the unfortunate Bourbon, La Roche Jaquelein, or Charles the Pretender; it is the unfortunate man that has the popular sentiment with him. He came in there and appealed to the sympathies of the half-educated or uneducated men. Mr. Speaker, the policemen were moved to the barracks at Prince Albert, which were held by a very few men, and in order to have additional reinforcements. The fort then stationed at Carlton was empty; the Hudson Bay people were not using it, and we asked them if we could send men there. They told us at once that we might have it as long as we liked, and we sent fifty men. We had 100 men at Regina, and fifty at Fort MacLeod, from whom they were drawn. There was no great force there; we were just quietly keeping the men there, without anybody knowing anything about it, or exciting observation, in order to be ready should there be an unfortunate outcome from this man's want of loyalty, and the other men's want of common sense in listening to him. Now, Mr. Speaker, I say that the complaint of these people, as published and as alluded to by the hon. gentleman, has very little reference to this land question. This land question is a bagatelle compared with their other complaints. There are a very few things unsettled, and they will be easily settled. There are points which are not yet settled, but these men will not be dispossessed. When the boundaries are settled and all their quarrels with their neighbors are arranged, they will get their patents fully, that they have a right to. But the hon. gentleman went over their "grievances"; he rolled that word under his tongue as a sweet morsel—the "grievances" of these people; their "just claims" denied. But I say there have been no just claims denied. Every just claim has been acknowledged. The most of those just claims have been settled, and those that are not settled will be settled as soon as it can be ascertained beyond doubt that fraud is not being practised upon the people. What interest can this Government, or any Government—the hon. gentleman's Government, if it were in power—have in keeping up a grievance? It can do no Government any good. It would be much easier for us to give everything to anybody that asks it. There would be no grievances if we gave away everything. But we are guardians of the public property; we are bound by oath to see that, in the performance of our duties, the Crown, that is to say the people, shall not be defrauded of an acre of land by unjust claims; they are bound to protect the public Treasury, to protect the money of the public, and their money's worth, whether in land or goods. That is what we are doing, that is what we will do, what we will continue to do, notwithstanding the inopportune, the unpatriotic attempt of the Opposition to assail us. But the hon. gentleman must lug in something about colonisation companies; that he heard the colonisation companies were not using the people right. What had that to do with this question of Riel's rights? What had that to do with the claims of the Métis? But the hon. gentleman's organised *claqueurs* behind him clap him on in everything. Any stick is good enough to hit the Government with, and so he lugs in the colonisation companies, some claims made against the Métis. What in the world had that to do with the Métis? It was brought in, and it shows the spirit with which the hon. gentleman is actuated and guided in the whole of this business. But the hon. gentleman wants to know what we will do with Riel. Why, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman offered \$5,000 to try and catch him, and he did it with the same object with which he makes this speech to-day. The man who was shot, Thomas Scott, was of Irish origin. The French Canadians from Lower Canada stood like a wall behind Sir George E. Cartier and myself. He could not gain them, and so he tried to gain the Irish. Who, then, was so strong a patriot as he? How loud-mouthed was he in regard to this Irishman, one of his own country-