

has been fully realized. We will all be glad to hear that, no doubt; as we must all share in His Excellency's regret that the outbreak in the North-West has added largely to the expenditure of the country. I think, as to that last passage, that the substance of it is, we have a very large deficit this year, the largest we have had since Confederation; and the Government say the cause of it is the outbreak in the North-West. I regret that the hon. gentleman to whom I referred just now is not here; because, when I said last year that the period of deficits was approaching, that hon. gentlemen said it had not come so far, and was not likely to come—that I was a false prophet. It has come now. But it does seem to me that, to excuse the existence of the deficit as has been done by those who have spoken on behalf of the Government by attributing it to the difficulties in the North-West, is an attempt on the part of the Government to take advantage of their own wrong doing. Our information as to the causes of the difficulty in the North-West is not as full as it might be, but still we have enough information to show that the Government are responsible. We have the admission of the hon. gentleman—a warm supporter of the Government—who has just spoken, that if the North-West had been represented in the House of Commons and in this House, the outbreak would not have occurred. If Parliament had had the information which the Government possessed, the rebellion would not have taken place. Clearly the Government were responsible for the insurrection, because they did not do what they would have done under the pressure of the members of the two Houses. The Government themselves admitted at an early stage in the outbreak—in fact just as it began—by the issuing of a Commission on the half-breed claims, that they had been negligent of their duty before. We have information to show that there was a great deal of discontent amongst the whites as well as amongst the half-breeds in the North-West; and it is not to be wondered at when it was very often a matter of several years' effort to get a patent for lands in the North-West. I have heard of one instance where the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Territories, Mr. Dewdney, sent an urgent

dispatch to the Government here stating in his dispatch that it was a matter that required to be attended to at once. That dispatch was answered a year afterwards to the effect that the matter would be considered, and nothing, I believe, has been done about it since. One can understand, in a free country like this, when the well-founded complaints of people are treated in that way by the Ministry, that if the people break out in revolt the Ministry are to blame. Then in addition to these half-breed claims and the difficulties about patents, and the delay in doing things generally, and the dissatisfaction as to the manner in which the surveys were made where the half-breeds were settled, there was the character of the appointments made by the Government in the North-West. The dispatch which the hon. gentleman from St. Boniface read to us just now shows that the people of St. Laurent have still to complain of the delay and neglect of the Government. It is clear that it was the misdeeds and the neglect of duty of the Government which made Riel's rebellion possible. If there had been no misconduct and no neglect of duty on the part of the Government there could have been no outbreak. I do not wish to be understood at all as justifying the rebellion. I should be very sorry to have any hon. gentleman understand that I assume such a position. Things have to go a very long way before open rebellion is justifiable; but the outbreak would not have taken place if it had not been for the Government's neglect and misdoings. I do not pretend either to say that the Government were wrong in allowing the law to take its course in the case of Riel. If, instead of executing Riel, they had executed, for instance, such a man as Gabriel Dumont, I think their conduct might have been found fault with. But Riel's case was different. Looking over the evidence there are certain circumstances which are calculated to prevent a man of unbiased mind from sympathising deeply with him. When you find a patriot who on different occasions professes his readiness to sacrifice his patriotism for \$35,000, I think he is hardly a man who deserves a very great deal of sympathy. So I do not quarrel with the Government—that is, as far as our information goes—over the execution of