

there. Well, Sir, I try to answer the question, and I say we have given employment to capital as well as labor; we have more capital employed in the country than has ever been employed before. Ah, but, says he, go to Kansas city. Well, we do not choose to travel so far; but I say we have increased the deposits in the savings banks of the country. Then he says: Go to Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Well, I say, we have lowered the rate of interest to the poor man who has to borrow. Then the hon. gentleman says: Reduce still further the rate of interest paid in the post office savings banks to the workingmen. That is the kind of reply the hon. gentlemen give, and it is about as far as the get. Now, Mr. Speaker, I will say a few words in closing, for I do not wish to weary the House. I think it is but fair to revert to the statement made by the Finance Minister when he introduced his Budget Speech. I think it but fair that hon. gentlemen opposite, as well as hon. gentlemen on this side, should accept that utterance, feeling that the country will hold the Government responsible for it, and will hold them responsible also. The hon. Minister of Finance, the other day, pointed out what had been accomplished by the Government in their expenditures, not only on the Welland canal, but in completing that great iron band which is necessary to cement our Confederation, in giving increased employment to labor and capital, bringing about accumulations of wealth in the savings banks, and after all that, the hon. Minister could tell us that it was all done at an increase of taxation of only about 12 cents *per capita* on the people of Canada. And when the hon. Minister of Finance told this House, in his able and eloquent way, that after all this was accomplished the taxation for the year 1885-86 would not be more than \$5 a head, hon. gentlemen opposite might have accepted that statement, and the debate might have been ended there and then. But the House has been wearied with the length of this debate, as I probably have wearied it myself. But I think the House and the country have been wearied with a debate that might have been terminated three weeks ago; and so far as this Government is concerned, we are prepared to leave it in the hands of the people.

THE DISTURBANCE IN THE NORTH-WEST.

Mr. BLAKE. I agree with the hon. member for North Perth in the substance of his closing remarks. I think it is about a week since this debate was dead, and it is pretty near time it was buried. Before it died I was minded myself to trouble the House, in order to answer some representations made by some hon. members of my own public utterances. But I do not intend on this occasion to inflict on the House any suggestions with reference to those utterances. I shall simply say, having regard to the fact that we are celebrating the obsequies of the defunct debate, that I do not accept the statements which hon. gentlemen opposite have made of my public utterances on various occasions, and I do not wish them to understand that they go undenied because I do not enter into an investigation of them. I was also minded, before this debate closed, to say something of the hon. gentleman's tariff resolutions. But that is a difficult operation, because we do not know from day to day what the tariff resolutions are to be. The hon. gentleman this afternoon, in answer to an hon. member, who asked if the Government would alter the duty on wheat, said that the Government announced their tariff policy when they brought down their Budget; but it does not seem that they always do it, because the tariff resolutions the hon. gentleman announced on that occasion are very different from those he expects to submit to our attention in the Committee of Ways and Means; and if the hon. gentleman will only take a thought, as another great person was asked to do, and alter his proposals with reference to the duties on inland freight charges, we shall have a very different Budget in the committee from that

Mr. HESSON.

which he proposed in his speech. But, as I said, it is not my intention to trespass on the attention of the House, with reference to the financial position of the country or the policy of the Administration in this regard, but to avail myself of the constitutional opportunity afforded by this debate, as I announced my intention to do this afternoon, to call the attention of the House to a subject of considerable pressing importance, in respect to which I do not conceive that this House or this country has been treated in the manner in which the Government ought to treat it. I refer to the events which are transpiring at this moment in a portion of the Dominion, and to the action which the Government has taken in reference to those events. The House will recollect that on Monday last I called the attention of the Government to the subject, and invited them to give the House such information as they could upon it. On that occasion the First Minister answered me, giving me as the reason which he understood was assigned for the present condition of things, that some letter or the other was said to have been written, to the effect that Louis Riel was not a British subject. He further stated that certain questions connected with the half-breed claims were in process of settlement, that some of their demands were admitted to be reasonable and that others were very unreasonable; but he informed us that nothing in the nature of a bill of rights had come to the cognisance of the Government. The Winnipeg Field Battery had not been dispatched to the scene of action; but, he said last summer it was deemed prudent to have some additional force near Prince Albert, and Fort Carlton had been occupied with the consent of the Hudson Bay Company, by a considerable force of Mounted Police. I resumed enquiry on the following day. I asked whether the Government had any additional intelligence to communicate to the House, and the hon. gentleman said they had nothing further: To-day we have elicited from him some further information, but not such as, I believe, the occasion justified, or rather demanded. The hon. gentleman has informed us to-day, it having become public in the newspapers, that a portion of the militia force of the country have been enrolled and are in active movement towards the scene of action, and he gave us something of the proximate and something of the remote causes to which he said the disturbance was due. But the hon. gentleman even now did not give us that information which I think it was his duty to have given us, as to what the Government are doing. The newspapers tell us that the general commanding the forces is on his way to, if he has not reached, Winnipeg, in order to take command of the forces which are to be engaged in this movement. I think upon that subject we should have been informed, and I think we ought to have much more and fuller information with reference to the whole causes and circumstances which have preceded this outbreak. I find in the Ministerial organs statements made upon this subject, to which it is worth while to refer. I find in the *Mail* newspaper, its issue of the 25th inst., a special despatch from the correspondent of that paper at Winnipeg, from which I will read some extracts:

"The half-breeds have, undoubtedly, good grounds for complaining; but they do not intend to resort to physical force, regarding that as utterly out of the question."

Then I find:

"The following orders were issued last night—Military District No. 10.—District orders, 23rd March. Orders having been this day received from headquarters, to hold the Winnipeg Field Battery and 90th Battalion Rifles in readiness for immediate active service, these corps are hereby notified to govern themselves accordingly. The officers commanding the above corps are requested to make the necessary arrangements to have the men under their command ready for embarkation for the North-West Territory at any time that may be arranged on or after the above mentioned day. Military District No. 10, Headquarters of 90th Battalion. The regiment will parade Tuesday evening, 24th inst., etc. Major Jarvis, commanding the Winnipeg Field Battery, issued the following orders at a late hour:—The Winnipeg Field Battery having