

for the Government to treat the Indians in such a manner as to make them their friends. They should send men there who will treat them with the greatest kindness. That the outbreak did not assume more alarming proportions, I think is largely due to the influence of the clergy upon the Indians, and it is the duty of the Government to protect those engaged in preaching the gospel amongst the tribes. That is the best means of spreading civilization which could be employed. Not ten days ago I visited the Manitoba Penitentiary and witnessed the baptism of 29 of the Indians incarcerated there, among them such well known chiefs as Poundmaker and Big Bear. My opinion is that before long the Government will, in their own interest and the interest of the North West, come to the conclusion to release all the imprisoned Indians. They are certainly guilty, but they did not understand what they were doing. I think they now know that they acted wrongly, and it is to our interest that they should be restored to liberty as soon as possible. When those who have recently been baptised return to their families they will be our best friends. That is certainly the best means of promoting civilization and progress, and we may rest assured that they will never again violate the peace and order of the country. Having alluded to the paragraphs of the Address which refer more particularly to Manitoba and the North West, I shall now take the liberty of replying to some remarks which were made by the hon. member for DeSalaberry.

HON. MR. TRUDEL—I would ask the honourable gentleman from St. Boniface if it is a crime for the people of Quebec to create an agitation by expressing opinions differing from those of the Government. I think the honourable gentleman is falling into the same mistake, because he does not seem to approve altogether of all that the Government has done. I call his attention to the fact that it may be the means of creating an agitation in this House.

HON. MR. GIRARD—I do not think the Province of Quebec has committed a crime; but supposing they had committed what I considered to be a crime, I

would not take it upon myself to denounce it; I would leave to others better qualified than I am the duty of bringing it up against the province which I love *par excellence*. At the same time I do not hesitate to say that I regret the agitation which has taken place in the Province of Quebec. If it was not a criminal one, it certainly was very reprehensible. It was not in the interests of the Dominion, and it went so far that one step more would have endangered the existence of the confederation. For my own part I do not hesitate to express my unqualified disapproval of the movement. I do not say it is a crime to agitate. British liberty gives to the subjects of Her Majesty very wide scope, and gives us the right to plead for our rights; at the same time I do not think we could do any more than what has been done in the Province of Quebec to create trouble and disorder in the rest of the Dominion. The honourable gentleman from DeSalaberry smiles; but I tell him that we who reside in the North-West, who were most interested in this matter, never wished for such an agitation. We remained quiet. We were in the minority there, and we understood that if we desired to advance the interests of the Dominion, of our own province, and of the North-West, we could not do it by our own unaided effort. We are in the minority, and we feel that it is the duty of the minority to go to the majority and make mutual concessions from time to time which will be in the interests of the community as a whole. That is what we have done. If we had not done it, what would have been our position to-day? It certainly would not have been possible to have advanced that country to the position in which it now stands. It was only by mutual concession that it was possible to allay the animosity that existed when I first entered that Province. Certainly had I acted as my friends in Quebec have done towards the people of Manitoba I would have been forced to seek a home in some other country. Our friends in Quebec must understand that we do not care to submit to injustice, when any injustice exists, any more than they do, and for that reason we desire to protest against the agitation that has been brought about as not being in the interests of the confederation. It is very