

Liberal leaders, including Mr. Blake, who was absent in Europe during almost the entire contest, were unable to take part in it. This was the more noteworthy as there was comparatively little to allege against Sir John's administration of affairs from 1867 to 1872. But the Orangemen did not consider that he had displayed sufficient energy in bringing Riel to justice, and were either neutral or actively hostile. Had they known of his correspondence with Mr. Donald Smith and Archbishop Taché in reference to Riel he would not have had a corporal's guard at his back from Ontario, but those facts did not come out till a later period. In the election of 1874 they were still of the same temper, though on that occasion Sir John A. Macdonald had many other things to answer for and would have been defeated in any case, though probably not so decisively.

Later in 1878 the conditions were reversed. In this election the Orange body took action against Mr. Mackenzie partly on the ground that he had commuted the sentences inflicted on some of Riel's associates, and partly that he had not been able to secure the punishment of the parties in Montreal who maltreated Mr. Hackett so severely that he died from the effects. Hackett, you may remember, had been attending an Orange procession in Montreal on the 12th July, and had got separated from his friends, and was so badly beaten that he died. I may add that they were, not without reason, much exasperated by the impudent attempt of Riel to take his seat in the House of Commons in 1874 and by the opposition of the French members to the vote for his expulsion on that occasion.

REPORTER. Was it not most injudicious for the Orangemen to parade in Montreal?

SIR RICHARD. It was a great deal worse than injudicious. It was deliberately designed to make bad blood between the French and Orange elements, and assuredly had that effect in no ordinary degree. The best proof of this is that after 1878, when it might have damaged the Conservatives, there were no more Orange demonstrations