POOR COPY

[*Continued from 4th Page.*]

The Liberal Meeting at Chatham.

HON. L. H. DAVIES,

who was greeted with most enthusiastic applause, which was participated in by the ladies present, was unable to obtain a hearing for some moments. He then said :—

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen—I was not a little surprised at the fearlessness of my learned friend, who has just resumed his seat, in espousing so eloquently and so boldly the Liberal cause. I was, I say, not a little surprised when I remember that, but a few nights ago, after a meeting in Moncton, when I attempted the feat, which he has so successfully performed to-night, I found that

THREE CABINET MINISTERS

came down from Ottawa to annihilate me and the party to which I belong. (Laughter.) Why, sir I was told that the Liberal party was a mere rump, without principles or head to guide them—that they had no principles to guide them—and no honest man would belong to that party. Judging, however, from the audience assembled here to-night, I see there are some yet left who are not afraid to avow themselves as Liberals, and I think I may take it for granted, that the presence of so many respectable people here to-night is a proof that in this corner of the Dominion liberal principles are not dead. (Loud applause)—that liberalism is still, as I am informed, strong among you. I am glad to see so many present, and I am gratified to notice also that

THE LADIES

are taking part in our political gatherings, for they give a tone to these meetings. I am, indeed, pleased to have the ladies present with us, for we have a right to ask from the women of this Dominion their moral support in the battle we are fighting. (Enthusiastic applause.) I am also glad to see so many of the electors present who are very shortly to be called upon to record their votes for or against the policy of the administration of the day. It is

A GOOD SIGN FOR THE LIBERAL PARTY

to have such a large representation of the electorate present, because we have never at any time shrunk from a full and free discussion of our acts—(loud applause)—and we stand to-night before you and before the body of the electors of the Dominion to challenge the policy and criticise the acts of the administration of Sir John A. Macdonald during the last seven or eight years. We are here to-night to convince if we can—and we believe we can—the electors of Canada, that the continuance in power of the conservative party will not be beneficial to this country; it has been in the past, and will continue to be in the future, a curse to this Dominion. (Loud applause.)

While we shall attempt, then, to convince the electors, we do not propose to fortify our position by personalities or by abuse of our opponents, but by calm discussion, by a logical array of facts; we shall seek, at all times, to convince the electors by an appeal to their reason, and so convince them—through their reason—that it is their interest and duty alike, to return the Hon. Edward Blake and his party to power. (Loud applause.)

THE TWO LEADERS.

I will, with your permission, make some reference to the leaders of the two political parties in our Dominion. You have heard from my eloquent friend who has just addressed you (Dr. Alward) of certain incidents which occurred in the political life of Sir John A. Macdonald. You often hear many men say—I have heard them say it, and I have no doubt many of you have also heard them say the same thing—"oh these politicians are all alike"—but you will always find it is a Tory that says that. Mark my words! You will always find it is a Tory who makes use of that expression, for such an one knows that his leader has been guilty of political crimes and misdemeanors, and that his colleagues have hastened to emulate his acts. We know that one half the members of Sir John A. Macdonald's cabinet have been

GUILTY OF ACTS OF CORRUPTION,

acts so clearly wrong that if they had committed but a tithe of them in the mother country, or in the United States of America, public opinion would have demanded their instant dismissal from public life. This being so we refuse to accept the saying as true that all politicians are alike, for I assert such statements are not true, such a remark is a libel upon the fame and character of the true, honest, and manly leader of the Liberal party (Loud applause.) I say there is no man here to-night, and I am certain there is no man or woman in this country, who believes in his or her heart that Edward Blake the great, the pure minded, and honest leader of the Liberal party in this Dominion could have been guilty of the act or part which Sir John A. Macdonald played in the Pacific railway scandal. (Loud applause.) I say there is no man who knows Edward Blake who believes that if he had at that time occupied the position of premier—and Sir John A. Macdonald was not only premier but also Minister of Justice, as between the Dominion he represented and the Northern Railway—he would have accepted so large a gift as Sir John A. Macdonald from that company, especially while deciding upon the justice of the demands the company were making upon his government. (Applause.) There is not a man in this country who believes Edward Blake would soil his hands, fair name and fame by such an act as that. If you but go through the whole policy of the two leaders, from beginning to end of their public career, you will find that expediency has marked that of Sir John Macdonald all the way through, and on the other hand you will find that the policy of Edward Blake is founded on righteousness and justice, and that he will do right even though the heavens should fall. (Cheers.)

We look to-day at the humiliating position which they see their leader occupying; for years he has ruled us as he willed; we see he has for years courted the vote of the Province of Quebec and that it has been in vain, that it has slipped away from him, no sooner does he recognise that the handwriting is upon the wall, than he gives the word to his followers to

RAISE THE RELIGIOUS CRY

throughout Ontario and call upon the electors of Haldimand to return his supporter to parliament, not for anything meritorious in their conduct of public affairs, not for any good act they have done, not because he has been carrying out the administration of the affairs of this country in an honest and economical manner, but because the "French are going to rule and must be put down." This man, all his life, has been living on French votes, all his life he has taught us to believe that they are a first class people, he even goes to Europe and there describes them as a good and patriotic people and their clergy as the greatest moral police in the world, but the moment he is going to lose their votes he leads a crusade against that party and their church from which he has received so much support in times gone by. (Applause.) Aye, and when he sent Dalton McCarthy, and Thomas White and other men into Haldimand, with firebrands, to preach this religious cry, Sir John remained on the borders of the country giving word to them,—directing the campaign and allowing the *Mail*, his organ in Toronto, to whip up, as much as he could whip up, the passions and the feelings of prejudice, to array class against class, Protestant against Catholic. (Applause.) Why, Sir, when I look upon that man's character, when I read between the lines the views he has held at one time and those at other times, when I view his actions and contrast them with those of statesmen who preceded him, I am impelled to the conclusion that, "power to him is life and health and being" and if he cannot govern he will destroy. (Vociferous applause.) "Keep us in power or we will smash this Confederation into its original fragments." Such is the result of their words, and the actions of one who desires you to accept him as a statesman. Will you accept him? How many men are going to join him in the wicked crusade he is attempting to preach? I tell him that the people of Canada want none of such things—they are of a different mould; what they want is a sound administration, what they want is a serious, a sober, earnest view of the practical political acts of his administration, for they are about passing a vote of censure, and they do not want a red herring drawn across the track and their attention diverted from the points at issue, by this religious cry. (Applause.) No sooner did he see that the people of Haldimand would not listen to the new doctrine than he turned his coat, he goes down to a political meeting, he disavows the *Mail* and says he has nothing to do with it at all. It has been a failure—such tactics will not avail him. The Quebec elections were coming on,—he had to retrace his steps, but he did so when it was too late, and the people are beginning to find out that he has been a political impostor—(applause)—and that instead of upholding just principles which would have secured for him the sympathy of the people of this country, he is prepared to sacrifice the good principles he has espoused during his life, or any other principles he may have held, in order to retain power, and he will "smash," if possible, "this great confederation into its original fragments," unless he can remain in power.

EDWARD BLAKE.

Look at the conduct, on the other hand, of the leader whom we are so proud of following. When he returned from England a year ago, he found this whole Dominion from one end to the other throbbing with excitement. He found the whole Province of Quebec a seething mass of political excitement. The people were meeting in every village and every hamlet, discussing with fire in their eyes and rage in their hearts, the action and injustice of the government in allowing Riel to be executed, because they said the Government had played them false in this matter, they having promised the people of Quebec that Riel should not be executed. Such was the state of affairs in Quebec when Edward Blake returned from England. He had only to speak the word and he could have raised the next thing to rebellion in that province. The whole dominion was in suspense and waited to hear what he would say, and many of you no doubt remember his celebrated speech at London. You also remember the feeling which no doubt passed through your hearts, and doubtless the same feeling passed through the heart of every man in these Maritime Provinces, aye, all through this broad Dominion—as it did through mine—a feeling of relief and of easiness, when Edward Blake said:

"I do not desire to build a political "platform out of the scaffold of Regina "and ride into power out of the blood of a "condemned man. I will hold my judg-"ment in suspense until I have had the "whole record laid before me in parlia-"ment, and I am able to form from that "record of facts honest and just "conclusions. When I get that record I "will have the manliness to say what I "think, but until then I withhold my "judgment."

Every one must allow that these were statesmanlike words, and as a conseqence the feeling of the people in that province was quieted down and the people went quietly about their usual avocations. So he, after reading the evidence in the case and all the records of the trial—whether he was right or wrong, there is not a man in the hall but believes he gave an honest opinion—came down to the House of Commons and said the Government had done an injustice in allowing Riel to be executed.

HONEST DIFFERENCE OF OPINION.

I did not vote in favor of a vote of censure being passed upon them for their conduct. I did not vote with my leader on that occasion, but I claim that both of us came to honest conclusions. I claim that Hon. Edward Blake came to an honest conclusion and gave an honest vote on the Riel matter. It was a question upon which honest men might fairly differ, and it was on this account that I refused to join in a vote of censure against the government. I said: "If the government have been dealing with a question, and with facts which admit of two conclusions, and if they, acting as honest men, have come to an honest conclusion in this matter, even though I might differ from them in that conclusion, I will not vote against them." But there were some men who said the government were not honest in their conclusions, and that they had gambled with this man's life: that they had tossed a penny to see whether it was to be death or life. Be that as it may, I say that I, not having any evidence of that kind before me, gave the government the benefit of the doubt, and believing that they acted in good faith, as honest men should act, I refused to vote against them.

A STATESMAN'S COURSE.

The point at which I wish to arrive is this: What did our leader do in this matter? When he arrived from England he could, by saying the word, have captured the whole vote of the Province of Quebec, but instead of doing so, he calmed the seething multitude with words of statesmanlike wisdom. He said: "Let us form no hasty judgment, but await the whole record in parliament, and when we find on which side the truth lies, let us give a fair and honest judgment." I say in these words there was a message of peace, there was no hasty conclusion, but calm deliberation. (Applause.)

THE MINISTERS AT MONCTON.

Now, gentlemen, I want to say a word or two concerning those friends of mine who at Moncton have delivered, I think, six speeches against your humble servant and Dr. Stockton. (Laughter.) We are neither of us very large men—(laughter)—but it seems that it took three Ministers of the Crown, supported by three members of parliament, to endeavor to demolish the arguments we advanced at Moncton. (Loud applause and laughter) I do not think that they were very successful in doing so, but I have read their speeches, and I have noticed that every grave charge which we made was either skilfully evaded or oily passed over; while a number of the minor and indifferent statements were challenged and vehemently denounced. (Applause.) From a perusal of the speeches delivered at Moncton, one would be led to think that the whole of our arguments and the whole case depended upon these secondary matters. (Laughter and applause.) Now I do not desire to enter into a scolding match with the Minister of Marine and Fisheries—(laughter)—for I would not succeed with him in a struggle of that kind. (Laughter.) I am perfectly willing to accede to him the palm in such a matter—(laughter)—but I wish to say a word or two to the other gentlemen who spoke on that occasion. (Applause.)

THE CHARGES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

I have no fault to find with the tone of any of the speeches delivered in Moncton except with that delivered by Mr. Foster, with which I will deal directly. When I gathered up in that evening's debate the charges which we made against the government,—as a government of corruption and wrong doing—when I charged that this last Parliament of Canada was a parliament of scandals, when I recited the scandals one by one and when I referred to the pages of Hansard, where the proofs of those charges could be found, I thought at least that an answer would have been given containing some facts in contradiction to the statements thus made by us, but I find none was given.

THE CHARGES AGAINST SIR HECTOR.

Now I charged Sir Hector Langevin,—in pretty much the same terms my friend (Dr. Alward) did to-night,—with being a Minister of the Crown, bound by his oath to decide as between the Crown on the one hand and the contractors on the other hand, to decide honestly and squarely—doing even-handed justice to both parties—and I charged that he, while holding that position, received a $30,000 testimonial, and that that testimonial was in part subscribed to by those who had claims against the government, which claims had been rejected by his predecessors and rejected by himself, but which were subsequently paid, and paid within a few months after the testimonial had been presented, and I then instanced the claim of a man who had built a fence in front of the Parliament buildings at Ottawa, and stated that this man could get no other government or minister to allow his claim, but, when he had subscribed $1,000 to the testimonial, Sir Hector Langevin immediately discovered good grounds for the claim, and it was paid. I then charged, as my friend charged to-night, that no minister of the crown could take gifts from those seeking favors at his hands without laying himself open to grave charges. But, what was the answer made to that charge? Mr. Wood, at Moncton, says that the good name and fame of Sir Hector Langevin is such that it will live in after ages when the name of his detractor will not be heard of. Is that an answer?

A WRONG TO THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE.

Why, the facts are admitted, and if the electorate decide in favor of Sir Hector Langevin they not only condone an act wrong in itself, but they are inflicting a great wrong upon our youthful country; they are stamping principles upon it which will prove disastrous to our future career as a nation. (Applause) Now is the time to lay down deep good solid principles; now is the time to form the foundation upon which we will build—righteousness and truth. (Applause.) Now is the time when is needed a party of honesty and integrity,—you should insist upon this principle being the guide; you should insist upon this as the lodestar and guide of your public men, and if they are not men of honesty and integrity you cannot hope for success in the future of the country. (Loud Applause.)

Then I spoke Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, of the iniquities of the franchise act. I said that Sir John A Macdonald did not fight with fair weapons; I said that when he went to the electorate in 1882 he fought by striking below the belt—that was by introducing the gerrymander act, by stifling the honest vote of the electorate in the province of Ontario in order to enable himself to obtain a large majority of members with a very small majority of voters, and I said that by following up such practices public opinion was turned against him, and that he had lost the confidence of the people; that he was again striking below the belt in

INTRODUCING THE FRANCHISE ACT;

that he by that bill, sought to disfranchise the young men of P. E. Island and British Columbia—young men who have enjoyed the benefits resulting from manhood suffrage all their lives—and that while he was disfranchising those young men, while he was endeavoring to take away from them a liberty, he was conferring the franchise upon the pagan Indians of the plains. Yes, friends, even the very Indians,—at the time he was carrying his bill through the house of commons—whose hands were red with the blood of our young men who had gone to the Northwest to suppress the rebellion—even they were enfranchised. (Loud applause.) But, in a very disingenuous way, Mr. Wood said that it was only the Indian who stood in the same position as the white man who was enfranchised, and that to this the opposition were opposed. I deny that. The main point of opposition made by us to the franchise bill was: that so far as the Indian was concerned the bill enfranchised the Indian who lived in his tribal relations. It conferred the ballot upon the Indian who could neither make a will nor own property, and who was not called upon to pay any taxes; this man who could neither buy nor sell, who could neither make a will nor enter into a contract; that man who had been from the first fed by the bounty of the state.

A SIN OF THE FRANCHISE ACT.

I will not go exactly that far, because he was entitled to that, but I will say that this man who was the recipient of treaty money, and who looked year after year to the Indian commissioner for his blanket and pork was to be enfranchised, and these Indians, hundreds and thousands of whom have never bowed to or acknowledged the name of Christ; ignorant of what a parliament is, as hundreds and thousands of them are, were to be enfranchised. That Indian who was fed by the state and who necessarily would vote for the man that gave him his blanket and pork; that Indian was to be enfranchised and clothed with all the rights of citizenship, while the young men of Prince Edward Island, the province from which I come, and the young men of which are educated christian young men, bearing their share of the taxes, and ready to shoulder their rifle when called upon to defend the liberties of the country, these young men were to be disfranchised. I said that this, in my opinion, was sacrilegious; that it was disgraceful, and I have stated my opinion again and again and will now again state it. (Loud applause.)

A POOR APOLOGY AND DEFENCE.

Mr. Wood, however, comes forward and says that only two or three thousand Indians were enfranchised, but let me tell you that two or three thousand Indians judiciously distributed in thirty or forty districts where there are now no Indians, could wield an immense influence. Mr. Wood knew that the aim of the bill was to stifle public opinion by the Indian vote, and I now again repeat the protest I entered in Parliament against that bill. I protested in Parliament against the independent, honest taxpayers of the Maritime Provinces having their votes blotted out by the conferring of the right of the franchise upon the pagan, the ignorant, and the tribal Indian. (Applause).

INDIANS WHO SHOULD VOTE

I do not mean by saying this that I object altogether to the Indians having votes, because there may be Indians who have ceased to to have tribal connections, who stand upon the same footing as white men, Indians who pay their taxes, and these I say should of right be enfranchised. (Applause). We Liberals come to the country and say that in such cases we want the Indians to stand upon the same level as the white man. (Applause). I care not to what race a man may belong; I care not how dark a man's skin may be, if he is a man who pays his taxes and contributes to the revenues of the country, I would confer upon him the same privileges as those I would grant to a man of my own color. (Loud Applause).

THE LIBERAL FRANCHISE.

We of the liberal party, proposed that in lieu of this lengthy Franchise Bill with its accompanying schedule of difficult conditions for obtaining the franchise—conditions almost impossible for a lawyer to understand, much less an ordinary man—a bill not so well suited to the wants of the people of this wide Dominion as the franchise laws prevailing in the various provinces, and that therefore such provincial franchise laws should be retained as the laws regulating Dominion elections. (Applause.) We urged that each province knew best what was suited to its people. British Columbia would know much better than Nova Scotia what was suited to its people, and so with respect to the rest of the provinces: and we offered a resolution in parliament to that effect, but failing in that we said we were prepared to support, and we did support, a proposition which gave full and hearty concurrence to

MANHOOD RESIDENTAL SUFFRAGE.

(Loud Applause.) We said "let us step out of all these fancy franchises, and let us get down to the only true basis of franchise—manhood residental suffrage ."Let the man who resides in the country for twelve months, and pays his taxes and share of the expenditure, have a voice in the legislation of the country. (Cheers.) That is the true basis of such a bill, but our alternative propositions were rejected and we have this Franchise Bill with its 211 revising officers, 211 clerks and 211 baliffs, involving a charge upon this country of—it was said—$250,000; but it is more nearly $5000000 and I say if the Liberal party is returned to power, among their first acts will be one of a remedial nature as regards the franchise law, if not to entirely sweep away that iniquitous act. (Hear, hear and applause.)

Then Mr. Wood more coolly still told the people of Moncton that as regarded

THE INCH-ARRAN SCANDAL

there was nothing in it. There was only this in it—that the Chief Superintendent of the Railways of this Dominion had become the owner of that hotel, that material had been carried along on that railway to that hotel for its construction—that no freight was paid upon that material and that after the scandal was exposed in the press and in Parliament the money was surreptitiously paid into the treasury. Would it have been paid in if the scandal had not been exposed? More than that it came out in the course of the investigation that that official purchased that hotel not with his own money but with the written promise, signed by the Deputy Minister of Justice of this Province, that if the then occupant vacated possession that that occupant's husband would be provided for at the expense of the public, and the government provided the office, and to-day the taxpayers of the Dominion are paying their moneys so that this official might have possession of the hotel. It was not a huge scandal, it did not involve any very large sum of money, but it did involve a principle and I do not know the difference between a man who in such a manner gets $1.000 or $2,000—the moral guilt is the same.

THE OIL SCANDAL

Then as to the Oil scandal. Mr. Wood, very oily, passed over that by saying that he and his friends knew nothing of it. I am bound to take him at his word. He could not deny the correctness of the facts, as stated by Mr. Stockton who came out and fearlessly stated the facts of this oil scandal, that a wrong had been committed and that many were connected with it who were fattening off the plunder obtained from that oil business.

FOSTER'S MISREPRESENTATIONS.

The next to come was the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and I mention him because he put some statements in my mouth which are not correct. He said that I desired to attain an importance beyond what would otherwise be awarded me; he said that I said I spoke as the mouthpiece of the Hon. Edward Blake. I never made such a claim, and I never used such language: but I did say, and he knew what I said was this: That as the mouthpiece and lieutenant of the Hon. Edward Blake, I had moved the reciprocity resolution which Dr. Alward has to-night read to you; but I would no more attempt to speak on behalf of the Hon. Edward Blake than I would to speak on behalf of the Archbishop of Canterbury, without his authority, and I did not, and all the nonsense that Mr. Foster talked about that was purely a waste of breath and time. Then he says that Mr. Davies had only the one word to say to the people: yet I spoke to them for two hours in explanation of these scandals, knowing when I did so that the reporters were present and were taking down *my* words, so that I would not only speak to the people of Moncton but also to the people of Canada; and yet knowing this he (Hon. Mr. Foster) told the people of Moncton that the only message I had for them was that "Haldimand has spoken and the remainder of Ontario will speak the same." Sir, when I addressed the Moncton meeting the Haldimand election had not taken place; the electors had not then spoken, and I then feared we would not be so successful as we were; I carefully hedged on the subject. (Laughter and applause.

Mr. Foster said at Moncton that in my speech at that place I said "Haldimand' has spoken, we are going back to rule,' and he must evidently have thought there was some poetry in the expression, for he kept repeating it through the whole length of his speech. (Laughter and applause.) I certainly could not then have said so, for Haldimand had not then spoken, yet notwithstanding that, I will now say that I believe in my heart

WE ARE GOING BACK TO RULE,

and that right early. (Applause.) It seems that these blue blooded gentry, like the Minister of Marine, who imagine they are born to the purple, think that we of the Opposition have been guilty of some crime, because, forsooth, some of us feel that if there was a change we might occupy his position, so he said that all we ask is office, and that all our statements in opposition to the government are made solely in order that we may obtain office. This slanderous statement has been repeated time and again, and the men who cast forth that aspersion know that if there is one pure-minded man in this Dominion—if there is one man in Canada who has given up $20,000 a year which he was making in his profession in order that he might devote himself body and soul to the interests of the people of this Dominion—a people whom he is proud to serve—that man is Hon. Edward Blake. (Loud applause.) Yet, knowing this, we find these blue-blooded gentry (who, I suppose, always did occupy these grand positions and always intend to do so if they can get the people to return them) accusing this pure-minded man of grasping for office, simply because he is opposed to and criticizes the acts of the government. (Applause.)

THEY WILL NOT SEE THEIR DANGER

Now, what I did venture to say at Moncton concerning the present state of affairs in the Dominion was, "that with a rebellion suppressed after the expenditure of millions of money and the outpouring of a large amount of the best blood of the Dominion, at one end, and with the repeal of union agitated at the polls and carried with an unanimity almost unparalleled in political history, at the eastern end; with Prince Edward Island so dissatisfied at the treatment which she has received, that she has ceased to knock at the doors of the Dominion parliament, but has laid her case at the foot of the throne, and in view of the rapid increase of our public debt and expenditure, it behooves every lover of his country to take counsel with himself and fellows, and calmly review the circumstances which have brought about this state of affairs, and to award praise or censure according as his judgment dictates." Sir, for that statement I am denounced by these gentlemen; they say nothing serious has happened to the Dominion, that "everything is lovely and the goose hangs high"—(loud applause)—and this state of affairs will continue so long as these gentlemen remain in power and are allowed to draw their salaries. (Laughter and applause.)

TWO IMPORTANT INTERESTS

I will now briefly refer to the policy of the present administration concerning two important domains in the Dominion—the domain of the fisheries in the eastern end of the Dominion, and that of the Northwest Territories at the other end of the Dominion. I will first deal with

THE QUESTION OF THE FISHERIES.

I had hoped to see and had looked for some clear, definite and distinct statement on this question from the Minister of Marine and Fisheries in the speech delivered by him at Moncton. He is a young man who was placed in this position at a most critical time; at a time when our fishery treaty was about to expire with the United States; about the time when we warned the government that grave and serious consequences would arise between our fishermen and the American fishermen from the fact that if there was no treaty to guide them in their acts the Americans would come down to our waters and by force take possession of them, and that they would take their place side by side with our fishermen to their prejudice unless restrained from so doing by force. We also urged that if the American fishermen were permitted to carry away those fish to their own markets our fishermen would be handicapped with

THE DUTY OF $2 A BARREL,

while the Americans could get their fish in free, and we pointed out to the government that the proper course was to place cruisers upon our shores for the purpose of protecting the fisheries. In the year 1884 I, acting as the mouthpiece of the opposition, had the honor of moving the resolution which Dr. Alward has read to you, pointing out that the treaty was about expiring. You will remember that the treaty expired in about a year from the time this resolution was moved. We then pointed out that serious complications would arise if no arrangements were made, and that it was the bounden duty of the government to take some steps to protect us and debar our neighbors to the south from appropriating our fisheries to our disadvantage and to the evident prejudice of our own fishermen. I was met then, as I was met afterwards, with flat denials; they could not do anything, they did not want any treaty, I was only making matters worse, said they, and I had better leave well alone. The great statesmen at the head of the Dominion, who could do everything, said we had better leave it to him. We repeated it next year and then again when the next year came we were fortified by the opinion of the British Government—I have that document here and could read it to you but time will not permit given by Lord Derby: we were then fortified I say by this opinion and again brought the matter forward but with similar results.

THE TREATY EXPIRED

and they took no action and the men who taunted us in the House with going down on our knees to the people of the neighboring republic were found in this humiliating position, that no treaty existed and they had to go down on their marrow bones to the people at Washington and say they would give up the fisheries to them for the remainder of the year and the result is that we have not any treaty, that we were not prepared to defend the fisheries, and so they were offered to them free gratis, and of course they accepted them for nothing. (Laughter.) The fisheries of the Dominion were used by our American neighbors and they have never paid a dollar for the use of them nor have they given any commercial privilege to us in exchange. I tell you that the result of such a policy in regard to our fisheries has been one of ruin to the fisheries on the north coast of Prince Edward Island, where hundreds of our men have been deprived of their usual means of support for they could not attempt to compete in the American market with the American fisherman with any great advantage. I charge against the government criminal responsibility in that matter, criminal neglect of the fishermen of the Maritime Provinces, with what they call "masterly inactivity;" they did nothing, they allowed the matter to drift and drift until our poor people were next thing to ruin. Forced at the last moment to adopt a vigorous policy, they sent out some cruisers to stop the Americans from fishing in our waters. Sir, if the Americans would not listen to the voice of reason, if they refused to negotiate, then only one of two courses was open to us, our manhood and self respect, to defend our rights or cease to be an independent dominion. (Cheers and applause.) I was no craven coward advocating the surrender of our fisheries because they said they would have them, not at all, I would pursue another course, I know that we are still a young nation, but I also know that we have the moral support of the mother country whose flag waves over our heads; I know they would not attempt to take that which was our right away from us and I said,

TRY TO OBTAIN A FAIR SETTLEMENT

first by means of arbitration, the only christian method of settling differences between governments, try and settle by arbitration, send commissioners down to negotiate and if they fail then stand upon your rights and you will find a united people at your back, for all parties will sink their party feeling when the nation's liberties are at stake. (Enthusiastic applause.) We are prepared to rally around them, as we always were, if they act in a patriot manner. They sent out their cruisers and they came to P. E. I., and at that very time American fishermen were there but they did not want to see them.

PLAYING AT PROTECTION

American fishermen were then within the waters of the three mile limit and at this very time the government should have issued orders to keep them out of our waters, and should have insisted on the orders being carried out. But said the Americans—"We don't want your fishery." If so, then it was the bounden duty of the government to have said to the captains of our cruisers "Keep them out." We know our inshore fisheries are invaluable to the American fishermen, while those Americans engaged in the trade said they were not valuable at all; however, when the thing came to the test what did they do? They captured a few fishermen that came to our harbors, for a violation of the customs regulations, but so far they have not been very successful in catching American fishermen for infractions of the treaty, though it is admitted that such treaty is being violated. I have authority for all the declarations made at our meetings, from a letter which was signed by hundreds of men, vouching to the accuracy of the statement that for weeks and weeks, American fishermen fished with impunity around our coasts within a mile of the shere, and they never saw a Canadian cruiser at all. (Applause.)

WHERE WAS FOSTER?

Where then, I ask you was this young man who was lately appointed to the head of the Marine and Fishery Department? Where was this young man who went into this office in ignorance of the requirements of his department? Was he at his post directing, controlling, advising, and guiding his department through this intricate time? No, sir. At the very time when the crisis was at its height; when his advice was most needed he hied himself off on a junketting tour to British Columbia (Applause.) This I contend was wrong, for I say that a minister who has at heart the welfare of the Dominion, and the welfare of those particular branches of the government which are especially placed under his control, should ever be at his post, and more especially should he be at his post in times of grave danger to see that the officials under him discharge the duties which they are paid to perform. (Loud applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, we have in this matter of the fisheries a fair representation of the supineness, the indifference, the inaction and "masterly inactivity" which have characterized the policy of the government, with reference to our western domain. A subject upon which I trust you will accord me the privilege of saying a word or two before I close.

After Mr. Wood, the next gentleman to address the Moncton people, and who devoted some little attention to myself, was the Minister of the Interior, Hon. Thomas White. I have no complaint to make as to the manner of his speech, at all, for from the report of his speech he seems to have addressed himself very fairly to the questions before him; but he skilfully evaded all the strong points, and only took up the weak ones. Now, what did he say on that occasion? The Liberal party had charged that the claim made on behalf of Sir John Macdonald for years past, namely, that he was

A GREAT CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER,

was not worthy of any attention, and we charged that this, like many other claims made on his behalf, was without foundation, and at the meeting I addressed in Moncton I gave instance after instance, proving that the claim of the Tory party for their chieftain was entirely without foundation. Why, sir, we find that Sir John A. Macdonald had, for some years past, made claims that he was a great constitutional lawyer, and acting as such he said that the Dominion had a right to the forests, and in every instance where he claimed that the Dominion had a right to take these forests, it has turned out that

HE WAS WRONG.

I also alluded to escheated property in Ontario. He claimed that the Dominion had a right to control the sale of liquor in the Dominion, and so he introduced and passed a liquor license law for the Dominion. He fought that bill from post to post and from pillar to pillar; he said "there can be no doubt about the legality of the bill, for I have looked into the measure and I pronounce it to be valid, and I have never been found to be wrong in my *constitutional* opinions." The law was appealed against by the provinces: Mr. Blake and Mr. Mowatt contending that it was unconstitutional. The matter was carried to the Supreme Court where it was decided against him; that it went to the Privy Council in England, and they told Sir John A. Macdonald that he was wrong—that Mr. Blake and Mr. Mowatt were right. (Loud applause.) The same thing occurred with regard to the streams bill, and so I say when I find Sir John Macdonald giving his opinion on one, two, three, four, five or more subjects, and find him to be wrong in every case, and I find Mr. Blake right in every one of them, common sense compels me to draw but one conclusion, which is, that the man who is always right is a better constitutional lawyer than the man who is always wrong. (Applause.) This, gentlemen, is the substance of what I said on the subject at Moncton, but it seems that Mr. White is of opinion that in doing so, I had committed some great wrong, some heinous crime. (Applause.)

Now, Mr. White came to Moncton for the first time for some years, I believe,—at any rate in his official capacity—and he wanted to prove to the people that when the liberal party proclaimed to the people of this country that the promises made in years gone by by his party had not been fulfilled they were wrong; they were told that after this scheme of Confederation was consummated there would be

A LARGE INTERPROVINCIAL TRADE.

which would make amends for the loss of our American trade. Our people know that is not so and our people in Prince Edward Island know that while we have a so called interprovincial trade in Canada under this tariff and while everything is sent down upon us from the other provinces we do not send them a thing but oysters—they do not buy anything from us, and we said this is a jug-handled trade—there is no interprovincial trade here. But when Mr. White came down and went into the sugar refinery and the cotton mill at Moncton, which are not yet closed, and he found some bales of cotton marked Toronto and some barrels of sugar marked British Columbia he said "you see notwithstanding the statements to the contrary that you have interprovincial trade" and he asked: "Is not this interprovincial trade?" "No," I say "no" and I say to him and his party "if that is your conception of interprovincial trade it is not the conception of the people of the Lower Provinces."

THE TRADE WE WANT.

What we want here is trade for the natural, products of our soil our mines and our forests. (Applause.) We want markets for our lumber, for our fish, for our cereals, for our root crops, and we want markets for our grains and if we cannot get them in Ontario and Quebec we have to seek them where God and nature intended we should have them—in the United States of America. (Great Applause.) There is no use denying that fact or shutting our eyes to it. I have for years past felt that this matter was so serious and so grave a one that I have almost always brought it prominently before the meetings which I have addressed. (Applause.)

OUR POLICY.

When our opponents charge us with not having a policy I answer we have a policy, a policy which involves an interest more vital to our people than any other, a policy the object of which, if it can be gained by negotiation, if it can be obtained without loss of our self respect or national honor we shall secure by all possible means, a market for our products found by means of a reciprocal treaty—a market which is our natural market—a market which lies almost at our doors but from which we are debarred by their N. P. Our policy is I say if possible to obtain that market. Such then, sir, is our policy in contradistinction to that known as the N. P.—the two policies cannot co-exist. You, the people of this vast dominion, have to choose which you think best benefits you. You have had a test the past 8 years of the workings of the N. P. Are you satisfied with it? Does it in any way meet with your expectations? I think not, and I will again and again reiterate my statement that the people in my part of the Dominion are not satisfied with it. I do not know how you feel in regard to it here. I opine you in common with many others do not view it with favor, and if you want reciprocity you must put that party in power which favors such a scheme; if you wish to obtain a reciprocity treaty you can never do so by maintaining the party in power which through its organ, the *Mail*, has advocated the throwing of the supporters of a reciprocal trade movement into a well. You can never obtain reciprocal trade by retaining that party in power. Such relations with other countries are only obtained by those who seek for them, and if this country wants reciprocal trade relations with the United States the party must be put in power who are prepared to respond to the will of the people. President Arthur in his message to the Congress of the U. S., suggested the formation of a commission to settle the question of the fisheries and trade relations. You know that this was given the cold shoulder, but if there had been a Liberal Government in power, it would, I have no doubt, been the very opposite. (Applause.) So much, sir, with respect to Mr. White's theories of interprovincial trade. (Laughter.)

THE NORTHWEST REBELLION.

Now I desire to say a word or two, if it is not too late. (Cries of "Go on! Go on! We want to hear you.") I desire to give you a statement upon the North West rebellion, concerning which I maintain the government are fairly chargeable with, mind you, and responsible for that rebellion, a rebellion which has cost us so much money, a rebellion which has caused the loss of what is of more value to us,—the loss of some of the most precious young blood of our dominion, I even go further and say that the government are directly chargeable with provoking that rebellion, and I think I can prove my charge. (Loud applause.)

NO IMAGINARY WRONGS.

Hon. Mr. White said at Moncton that the true ground of the rebellion was Riel's determination to avenge imaginary wrongs, wrongs for which he expected from the government a large amount of money. Now that is Mr. White's version of the cause of the rebellion. He comes forward and supports that theory by doing what? By appealing to any public records which had been brought down and laid before parliament? By going to the archieves at Ottawa and drawing from them state documents as proofs of the statements made? By going to the evidence taken upon oath and under cross-examination at Riel's trial? No, but by putting his hand in his breast pocket, and withdrawing therefrom some ex-parte declarations which some of his officials have taken from the poor Half-Breeds that were released from prison.

MANUFACTURING TESTIMONY

Some few Half-Breeds having been released from the penitentiary are induced by his subordinates to sign these declarations in which they say that at the time of the rebellion, the Half-Brseds had little or no cause for rising in rebellion; these the Minister of the Interior reads as historical proof for his statements. I say that such an act was a scandalous and disgraceful act for a minister to do. I also say that if there is any truth in the statements he then read,—and taking him on his own ground that the Half-Breeds had no cause for rebellion or grievances to redress—then I claim that the government should have brought these facts before the tribunal which tried Riel. If Riel was guilty of the crime as these papers show of inciting these people in the North West to rebellion, why did not the government produce proof of it at his trial? Why wait until he is dead and then come and heap obloquy upon his memory—and God knows it cannot bear any more obloquy—by charging him with

INCITING THE HALF-BREEDS TO REBELLION,

simply on the statement of these poor wretches whose only desire was to get out of the penitentiary? Why, we all know that these poor fellows would sign almost anything to get out of prison. Why, instead of adopting this plan, did not the government bring these persons and other witnesses upon the stand to prove the statements made correct? I remember but a short time ago when there was a change made in the Department of the Interior; and I remember that when the new Minister of the Interior—and they say a new broom sweeps clean, (laughter)—in order to show that he was an active man and wanted to do what was right, went out to see the land for himself—to interview the people who said they had these grievances, to see these people with his own eyes—in other words, he went out to this western country, to see and judge for himself, to form an opinion by means of word-of-mouth conversation with the people, and also by means of the knowledge of these people held by his subordinates on the ground—and after he had made a survey of the land and had made a thorough examination of the people and of the country; after he came back from that survey of that western country and its people he made a speech giving the result of his examination. Mark the result of that examination, which result is drawn from a perusal of that speech. The minister said at Moncton that the true ground of the rebellion was Riel's desire to redress his imaginary wrongs, and he contended that the action of the government of January, 1885, in sending out a commission to settle the half-breed grievances precipitated the rebellion, because by that action the leaders of the rebellion saw that the grievances which had disturbed the people were about to be remedied, and that if redressed they could not incite the half-breeds to rebellion. But really, looking at the matter from a practical point of view, what did this indicate? Why it indicated, and that too most conclusively, that if there had been a government in power at that time which would have dealt honestly, energetically and promptly with these grievances when presented, no rebellion would ever have taken place at all. (Applause.)

Now I will

QUOTE MR. WHITE AGAINST MR. WHITE.

When Mr. White returned from his examination of North West matters, he addressed a meeting at Weston, when he said:

"The very action taken by the government, the tardy, incomplete action in January, 1885, when the rebellion was almost entirely under way, precipitated the rebellion itself. * * *

Now then, gentlemen, it will be asked how, then, did the rebellion occur? How was it that, if those things were settled, this rebellion broke out? I believe it broke out because of the action of the government, and not because of its inaction. It broke out, as Mr. Astley has stated in his letter, and which information he got from Riel himself, because Reil, seeing that the government had taken action and that the half breed claims, such as they were, were about to be settled, believed that his little game would be spoiled."

That is, according to Mr. White's statement, the half-breeds claims were about to be settled, and Riel knew that if they were settled there could be no rebellion raised, and, therefore, he incited the people to rebellion. Assuming that to be true, I will ask, when did the government take action in the matter of these half-breed claims? That will necessitate me going back to the year 1870, when an act was passed in parliament providing that the half-breeds of Manitoba should have given to them certain lands in settlement of their claim by reason of their Indian title to the land. That act was passed in 1870, but nothing was done in the matter by Sir John A. Macdonald, who was then in power; and you will find, if you examine into his record that his policy is always one of delay. Though often pressed by parliament he still pursued his

POLICY OF "MASTERLY INACTIVITY,"

and nothing was done towards the extinguishing of the half breeds and Indian title until 1874, when Mr. Mackenzie came into power, and he in 1874 introduced a bill conferring upon the half breeds of Manitoba and upon the children of those half breeds certain quantities of land, the number of acres I need not give to you, as it is not essential to the argument to which I am addressing myself. He carried that out so far as the half breeds of Manitoba who were residents in Manitoba were concerned; but outside of that province and reaching across those plains were the half breeds of the plains, and when in 1877 Mr. Mackenzie first organized the Government of the North West by sending out Mr. Laird, then the question came up for the first time about dealing with the claims of the half breeds of the plains. Now it will be remembered that Mr. Mackenzie only remained in power to the year 1878, but in September or August, rather more than a month before he went out of power, the half breeds of the plains, who used formerly to follow the buffalo and obtain their living from the chase, but who, owing to the scarcity of buffalo, had gradually

SETTLED DOWN BY THE BANKS OF THE RIVER,

began to find out that they were coming into a civilized country where there was a government, and naturally they said to themselves, there is a government here, a government controlling the lands of the country. So matters went on until finally they potitioned the government asking that their lands might be settled to them as they had been to the half breeds in Manitoba, and upon the same footing. That petition was endorsed with the approval of Lieut. Governor Laird himself and was forwarded to Ottawa. That petition was acted upon, in so far as it received the examination of the minister of the day, and he reported that some action should be taken. Now what action was taken? I will just ask your attention for a moment while I refer to the records upon the point. That petition stated:

"Your petitioners would humbly represent that their rights in the participation in the issue of half-breed or settlers' scrip are as valid and binding as those of the half-breeds and old settlers of Manitoba, and are expected from them to be regarded by the Canadian government as scrupulously as in that province, and with a view of the adjustment of the same, your petitioners would humbly request that a census of said half-breeds and old settlers be taken, at as early a date as may conveniently be determined upon, with a view of apportioning to those of them who have not already been included in the census of Manitoba their just allotment of land and scrip."

Now, in August, 1878, the Northwest council, which had then been organized, was the only representative body in the Northwest; that body endorsed the claim of the half-breeds and sent a resolution to Ottawa to the following effect:

"That, in view, however, of the fact that grants of land or issues of scrip were made to the half breeds of Manitoba towards the extinguishment of the Indian titles to the lands of that Province, there will undoubtefully be general dissatisfaction amongst the half-breeds of said territory, unless they receive some like consideration."

The petition from the half-breeds endorsed by the Lieut. Governor of the province, and the North West Council informed the government that the petitions were reasonable, and that there would be general dissatisfaction unless they received that measure of justice which in the petition they asked for. Then in 1879 the government came in very properly and took power from parliament to grant the prayer of that petition. Now, that is all very well, and I do not complain of the delay up to that time at all. In 1880, however, we had the halfbreeds wondering what had become of their petitions; they knew that an act of parliament had been passed authorizing the government to give them what they sought, and they naturally wanted to know the reason why there was delay, and they sent forward other petitions. In the petitions sent forward in 1880 they stated:

"And whereas the continued delay in ascertaining and investigating such claims is creating great and general dissatisfaction throughout the Territories, we, your petitioners, do humbly pray that you will cause a commission to be issued at an early day to inquire into and confirm the said claims, not only with regard to scrip and allotments of land as provided for in Manitoba, but moreover, to confirm the titles of land occupied by or purchased by parties from occupants of claims taken previously to the transfer of the Territories to the Dominion of Canada."

Now, that is down to 1880. They repeat the same thing over and over again, and these unfortunate half-breeds finding that their petitions remained unanswered in 1884 went around and collected, one from the other, a dollar or a half-dollar until they at last collected some few hundred dollars together, when they sent a delegation to Ottawa, to see if they could by a personal interview obtain that measure of justice which they sought, and to make a long story short, from the year 1879 up to the year 1884 when Riel came to the country

THE FIRST STEP WAS NEVER TAKEN

by the Dominion of Canada or by the department at Ottawa to remedy one of the grievances under which those poor halfbreeds labored. (Great applause.) In the meantime the country had begun to be populated with the whites;—in the meantime colonization companies were coming in on their lands, and these poor half-breeds who were living along the banks of the river saw surveyors coming along and running across their farms. They had been accustomed to have their farms along the river frontages and running back in long, narrow strips, and now these poor people saw these surveyors coming in upon their land and taking possession. They saw the whites coming in and getting possession of their lands and ordering them off. They could get no response from the Government at Ottawa: no kindly voice told them that their grievances were going to be remedied. Until Mr. Thomas White took the office of the Minister of the Interior, Riel was not in the country but during all this, time these

HALF-BREED GRIEVANCES WERE GOING ON

and the dissatisfaction was growing. Then these halfbreeds sent a deputation to the United States and brought back the wanderer, foot-sore and hungry, to their territory. This was the way in which they brought back Riel, and they hoped by this means to induce the government to redress the grievances under which they were laboring. For a little while after he came back, Riel continued, by the unanimous testimony of all who saw him, to advocate constitutional agitation as a means of inducing the government to redress their grievances. Mark you this fact! The government knew that for months this constitutional agitation for remedying these half-breed grievances was going on. The Government knew that the man whom they had called an "arch traitor" had been called back from his banishment by these people. They knew that Riel was in that Western country holding meetings, and knowing that these meetings were being held, they took no stock in the matter. They were warned by everybody who had any knowledge of affairs in the Northwest, that there was dissatisfaction existing, not only among the half-breeds and Indians, but among the whites. All the petitions and memorials, which were sent by these people, were yet mouldering in dust in the pigeon-holes of the Department of the Interior at Ottawa. During all this time nothing was done and no steps were taken to quiet the discontent in the Northwest by the government, which presumes to call itself "the all wise, paternal government of Canada." (Loud applause.) This brings me down to January, 1885, when we heard that for the first time the Minister of the Interior advised the issue of a commission for the settlement mark you of what? The whole half breed trouble? No, not even then when

REBELLION WAS BEING TALKED OF;

when force was about being resorted to; when the military and mounted police were warning the government that serious troubles were likely to break out at any moment; not even then was that commission charged with the settlement of the claim of those half breeds who had formerly lived in Manitoba, but who were now living on the plains, only about one third of the whole question was given to them for settlement. On the 11th of March we find Superintendent Crozier reporting by telegraph:

"Half breeds greatly excited; report they threaten attack on Carleton before the 16th; half-breeds refuse to take freight or employment for government, will stop all freight coming into country after 16th of this month; getting arms ready; leader will not allow people to leave home as they may be required."

On the 14th of March we find Col. Irvine telegraphed the government, saying:

Lieutenant-Governor received telegram, dated Carleton, to-day, from Crozier, saying half-breeds may break out at any moment, and joined by Indians, and asking that his division be largely increased. Would recommend that at least 100 men be sent at once before roads break up Please instruct."

On the 15th of March we find the government telegraphed Col. Irvine:

"Start for the north, quickly as possible, with all available men up to 100. Telegraph marching out state and report when passing telegraph stations."

On the 19th of March we find a telegram sent to the government by Superintendent Deane from Regina, which reads:

"The following received from Superintendent Crozier: Rumor to-night Indians being tampered with; large force should be sent without delay that arrests may be made if necessary to prevent further and continuous trouble from Riel and his followers."

I want you to remember these dates because we are soon coming to the critical time in regard to the rebellion. You will remember that on the 11th of March the government received a telegram from Superintendent Crozier; on the 14th March Col. Irvine telegraphed, and on the 19th of the same month Superintendent Deane telegraphed the government warning them of danger from the Half-Breeds and the necessity which existed for their taking immediate steps to settle the difficulty; that the rebellion broke out in a few days, and even then when they saw the fruit which had followed their policy of "masterly inactivity" they did not take any steps in the matter. No, they waited till the 30th of March, before they took any action. After these warnings by telegraph had come informing them that a spirit of rebellion was rife, that rebellion was ready to break out at any moment; then and not till then did the

GOVERNMENT WAKE FROM THEIR LETHARGY.

and advise the issue of a commission to settle the whole of the halfbreed grievances. (Enthusiastic applause.) Now, I ask you if that was fair and just to these poor half breed people? Do you think they were fairly and squarely dealt with by the government? On the 30th March, 1885, we find that the Minister of the Interior referring to the appointment of a commission on the 28th of January of that year, reported:

"The Minister of the Interior is of opinion that "the scope of the inquiry to be made by the com-"missioners appointed under the authority of "your excellency in Council above mentioned "should be enlarged."

The rebellion changed the conditions. The poor, long-suffering, down-trodden Metis, like a long trampled down man, when he saw that no redress could be obtained by constitutional agitation listened to the voice of Riel and very wrongly and rashly, I admit, rushed into rebellion, to obtain that redress which he had been unable to obtain by peaceful petition and remonstrance.

Then, on the 4th April, the authority which they gave was not complete. They had not fully msatered the situation yet, and the commissioner appointed to take the evidence telegraphed them back:—

SOUTH CENTER, Manitoba, 4th April, 1885.

"If desired by half breeds, would it not be advisable to grant script ouo sixty or two forty dollars, permitting them to acquire title or lands in occupation through possession? Otherwise Government really gives nothing for Indian title."

Mark you, up to that moment, they were not willing to give a single thing to these halfbreeds for their Indian title, and the rebellion was breaking out among them. I give you that upon the evidence of the commissioners themselves. I am not now reading from ex parte affidavits but from official documents, documents taken from the records of this country. Why, sir, it was then that Mr. Street, the commissioner, follows up that telegram which I have already read to you with the following:

Commission agree in recommending that, power be granted them to deal with occupying halfbreeds in the manner summarized in my message of yesterday; also, if possible to enable commission to settle claims of supplementary Manitoba halfbreeds by allowing them the same terms as Northwest halfbreeds.

This was followed by a letter from Winnipeg as follows—

WINNIPEG, April 5, 1885

My Dear Sir David,—We arrived here early this morning. I met my fellow commissioners at the Dominion Land Office at ten o'clock They introduced the subject, as to which I telegraphed you yesterday, and spoke very strongly as to its being one which was likely to be a serious stumbling-block in our dealings with the half-breeds. Lest you should notfully have understood my telegram, I will shortly state the point. Suppose we find that a half-breed has been, upon and since 5th July, 1870, in occupation of a parcel of, say 160 acres, under circumstances which, if he were a white settler, would entitle him to a grant of the land under the homestead clauses of the Dominion Lands Act; under the authority we now posess we could, if he were the head of a family, allow him nothing more than 160 acres; we could allow him nothing for his claim as a half-breed: and, inasmuch as the Government has all along been purporting to deal with the half-breeds as if they had some general rights beyond those of ordinary incoming settlers, my fellow commissioners say that great dissatisfaction and disappointment will be created if we give to these occupying half-breeds only that which any ordinary settler can claim, and nothing for the extinguishment of his Indian title."

Sir, that letter and those telegrams show me conclusively that this matter had never received, neither from the government of the day nor from the minister of the department, that consideration which it should have received. He should have known when he issued that commission what the grievances were about. Bishops, priests, deacons and laymen had written and backed their former petitions, praying that something might be done for them, and yet, sir, masterly inactivity reigned, and yet dust, dust, dust, laid upon petition and memorial. (Great Applause.)

NOTHING WAS DONE,

rebellion broke out, and then was sent the commissioners and the result, my friends is this. And we were met by the challenges—aye given every night on the floor, of the House of Commons—that we could not show a single man who had been thrust from his holding of the 4,800 half-breeds in the North West. Have not 2,000 of them been admitted by the commissioners appointed by the present government to have had grievances, and to have been entitled to scrip, and who have actually received scrip at the hands of the government, that, sir, for six long years had denied it? (Applause.) And I say unhesitatingly, that there is no 4,000 white people—if they had some of the Welsh blood in them that I have in me—that would have submitted to such treatment; they would have resented it, sir, if not by an act of rebellion, they would have made it warm for the ministry of the country. (Enthusiastic Applause.) But remember when you are called upon to judge the conduct of the half-breeds laboring under grievances and burdened by their grievances as they were, as Mr. Street says—and you know