

identical grievances of the same identical classes of half-breeds by powder and shot, by the rattle of your Snyders and the thunder of your artillery, and as a Tory paper said: by mowing down these half-breeds with your Gatling gun, commanded by an American officer, as grass falls before the scythe of the mower. What did the *Mail* newspaper say speaking of the family of one of these half-breeds?

"The writer states that Joseph Tourand moved three years ago with his wife and eight children from the parish of St. Francois Xavier to Fish Creek, where he built a beautiful residence, and where he resided until the beginning of last year, when his death occurred. One of his sons followed him shortly afterwards to the tomb, leaving Madame Tourand with a family composed of five boys and two girls, aged respectively 18 and 20 years. When General Middleton's army arrived the house was attacked with cannon, and the Tourand brothers, in the hope of saving their property, joined the little band of insurgents commanded by Dumont, and fought as best they could during this time. The two young girls, fearing for their lives, and yielding only to their fright, escaped with one Miss Gervais, carrying in their arms two young children, almost without clothing. They gained the woods and disappeared, to be found no more. Without doubt, they perished with cold and hunger. After the battle at Fish Creek the Tourands retreated to Batoche, where two sons fell upon the battlefield. The third was dangerously wounded, and the remaining two are now prisoners at Regina. The mother is now alone without a dwelling or means of subsistence, and without even the support of the children who survived so many misfortunes."

This has been your policy in the North-West; that is the policy by which you hope to colonise the North-West Territories. This is your justice to the people who complain of uninvestigated grievances and unredressed wrongs; this is your policy of Canadian justice; this you do in a British colony and under the British flag, and this you call Canadian justice; and your *Orange Sentinel* insists that these men, who protested against your gross injustice and your criminal neglect of their grievances with their lives, must be hanged by the neck or shot down in their tracks. Sir, there are some men to be tried, convicted and punished; but they are the men who negligently and criminally refused to investigate these wrongs, and to redress these grievances; and these men are sitting on the Treasury benches to-day. Now, I have shown you by the clearest possible evidence that the Government of this country had been informed that discontent, dissatisfaction and uneasiness prevailed among the half-breeds of the North-West Territories. I have shown you that the half-breeds of the North-West Territories memorialised this Government and complained to it over and over again. I have shown you that so keenly alive were the half-breeds of the North-West to the necessity of a peaceful solution of the difficulties that existed between them and the Government of this country that two years ago at their own expense they sent a delegation all the way from the valleys of the Saskatchewan to press their claims upon the attention of the Government at Ottawa. I have shown you that the Government had abundant notice of the nature and extent of these claims. I have shown you that the Government promised over and over again to promptly investigate these grievances and redress these wrongs. I have shown you that the Government of this country signally failed to discharge one of the most imperative duties that devolves on any Government—to remove all well-founded grievances, and to redress all well-founded wrongs. I have shown you that the Government persistently ignored these grievances, both of the white settlers and the half-breeds, for a long series of years. I have shown that the white settlers living in the neighborhood of Prince Albert and along the borders of the Saskatchewan complained to this Government of many and well-founded grievances, and complained in vain. I have shown that the Indians of the North-West Territories frequently complained, and presented their complaints to the Government of Canada. I have shown, from the reports of the Department of Indian Affairs and the Department of the Mounted Police, that these complaints were over and over again repeated to the Government of this country, and never received a response. I have shown that the solemn promises made by this Government to the Indians, and on the faith of

Mr. CAMERON (Huron).

which they were induced to abandon a nomadic life and to settle on the reserves, have been violated. I have shown that the Indians have been systematically robbed, cheated and swindled by the agents of this Government, and that this has been connived at by this Government. I have shown that the Indians were starved and frozen, owing to the insufficiency of the supplies given to them. I have shown that many of the officials entrusted by the Government with the administration of affairs in the North-West have been arrogant, deceitful and dishonest in their dealings with the Indians. I have shown that the Lieutenant Governor and Indian Commissioner of the North-West Territories, according to the papers submitted to the Government, is wholly unfit for the position he occupies. I have shown that these grievances have been submitted to for at least seven years, and that the First Minister, the Agent General of Indian Affairs and Minister of the Interior, never raised a finger to remove these grievances, to redress these wrongs, or to bring the guilty to justice. I have shown that in consequence of this inaction, this bad treatment and this misconduct, on the part of the Government, the people became discontented, dissatisfied and uneasy. Now, I ask you, Sir, I ask this House, and I ask the people of this country what punishment ought to be inflicted upon a Government guilty of all these wrongs? Impeachment at the bar of this House? Impeachment before the high court of public opinion, the electors at the poll? Sir, there is no punishment known to the law of this land that is at all commensurate with the crimes these men have committed. The unfortunate results which have followed the conduct of hon. gentlemen opposite, and which they ought to have known would have succeeded their misconduct as surely as effect follows cause, or daylight succeeds darkness, are still more grave and serious. This criminal misconduct of the Government, in persistently refusing to promptly dispose of the grievances of the North-West half-breeds, the complaints of the Indians, and the wrongs of the white settlers, caused a reign of terror in the North-West, and this reign of terror culminated in rebellion. But recently we have had many hundreds of our best young men bearing the crosses and enduring untold hardships, imposed upon them by this negligent, this incompetent, this imbecile Government. But recently hundreds of men in the North-West Territories were fleeing for their lives from the savage and ferocious Indians, and scores of intelligent and refined ladies were fleeing for more than their lives—their virtue and honor—with no city of refuge to flee to—but recently for the second time under the administration of the First Minister, we have had a rebellion, in which Canadian was arrayed against Canadian in deadly conflict. To-day many a Canadian home is mourning the loss of loved ones whose presence will no more gladden the home circle. To-day many a pulse has ceased to beat, and many a manly heart has ceased to throb. To-day we have the broad prairies of the west crimsoned with the best blood of Canada: to-day sadness and sorrow wrings the heart and pierces the soul of many a Canadian mother, who like Rachel of old mourns for her children and will not be comforted because they are not. The bravest have fallen in this terrible conflict, victims of the incapacity, the carelessness, the delays, the criminal misconduct of this Administration. For my own part, I protest now, as for years I have protested, against the policy of hon. gentlemen opposite—against their procrastination, their delay, their wicked mismanagement and criminal neglect of long standing grievances. I shall vote for the motion of my hon. friend as an embodiment of these solemn protests, and I am willing to leave the issue of the personal responsibility to the people of Canada and the punishment of the guilty to the tender mercies of the electors at the polls.