

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Besides, that man for whom we are asking for a monument today, heard one day the following advice from his father: Our people will need a leader some day, an educated man, able to speak to people of your age who now sow in our world the seeds of disorder and sometimes without showing any sympathy for those who suffer hardships.

For years he had prepared himself to become the leader of his fellow-citizens. He now had the required education. Perhaps the day to use it had come.

In 1870, Edward Blake, leader of the Liberal party in that province, had opened his election campaign by setting a \$5,000 price on Louis Riel's head. Accusing at that time the Conservative government in Ottawa of having let go unpunished those who were involved in the "deliberate murder of an Ontario citizen", he grossly exploited the popular feeling. Although the question had nothing to do with provincial affairs, it was very useful to the Liberals. They came to power with a great majority and the price of blood offered by Blake went into the provincial legislation not long after that. The news was published outside, arousing great interest, and joy in some cases.

At about the same time, Sir John A. Macdonald's government had to resign on account of what is known in history as the "Pacific scandal".

Today, Mr. Speaker there is unfolding in this land of ours an era that could unite both the French and English-speaking people. The whole thing could put these events in their true perspective. I will recall three names that will contribute to enlighten us on these facts. They are Messrs. Morton, Stanley and Osler. The latter is a member of parliament.

At the centre of those events, there is the outstanding figure of Louis Riel who was responsible for them and who is the Father of Manitoba. Why call him the Father of Manitoba? Because he fought for the rights of the French and the English people. In our time, as a token of respect for the Father of Manitoba, a monument has been erected to his memory in Regina, Saskatchewan, on the very grounds of the Legislative Assembly.

On the eve of such an important centennial and for the glory of a greater Canada, will there be any Canadian participation in the celebrations now being organized by his beloved daughter in the province of Manitoba? This participation would please the first Canadians, the Indians and their blood brothers, the Metis, and it would commemorate the

[Mr. Dumont.]

first Canadian voyageur, La Verendrye, who travelled to Western Canada, as well as all those young Canadians who would find in Louis Riel a true Canadian hero.

Hon. Eric W. Kierans (Postmaster General and Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleague, the Secretary of State, I am honoured to reply to the hon. member.

On answering this question directly, the Secretary of State did not see fit to consider the possibility of a grant for the erection of a monument commemorating Louis Riel on the grounds of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

[*English*]

CANADA PENSION PLAN—EXEMPTION OF OLD ORDER MENNONITES

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. As the minister is now in the house we will revert to question No. 1.

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I received a message explaining the minister's absence, and I understand it was an unavoidable absence. On April 28, I directed a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro) asking whether he had discussed with representatives of the provinces the possibility of obtaining an exemption for the Old Order of Mennonites from the provisions of the Canada Pension Plan, and if so, what had been the result of those discussions. My interest in this matter arises from the private members' bill I have on the order paper and from some of the statements the minister himself has made indicating that he is prepared to view sympathetically the request of the Old Order of Mennonites.

I should like to say a word or two about the Old Order of Mennonites. They represent a relatively small number of people in Canada. They are somewhat different from most Mennonites. They are largely an agricultural people and are located in Waterloo county. The question of exemption, and in my opinion justice, for the Old Order of Mennonites goes beyond their own personal circumstances. Underlying the whole matter is the question of freedom in our society and the right to dissent whether it be dissent of the left or dissent of the right. It is a question of the right of people to be different and to have their differences recognized, especially in cases where those differences do not interfere with the rights and opportunities of other