

this manner shall never again have the honour of shaking hands with the representative of the Crown; that he will be either apprehended and brought to justice, or be compelled to hide from the light of the day his coward face and crime stained hands." This was strong language he (Mr. Bowell) admitted, but not stronger than circumstances justified.

He made these quotations to show what was the opinion of the Premier at that time and that was one reason why he thought that the moment the hon. gentleman assumed the reins of Government he would have attempted to carry out the declarations he had made. The opinions expressed by the Premier were not stronger than those of the hon. gentleman who sat immediately behind him—a gentleman who was one of his colleagues in the Ontario Government. That gentleman (Hon. Mr. Blake), when he occupied a seat in the Ontario Legislature, made the following motion:

"That the cold-blooded murder for his outspoken loyalty to the Queen, of Thomas Scott, lately a resident of this Province and an emigrant thence to the Northwest, has impressed this House with a deep feeling of sorrow and indignation; and, in the opinion of the House, every effort should be made to bring to trial the perpetrators of this great crime, who as yet go unwhipt of justice."

This also he (Mr. Bowell) only referred to in order to justify himself in asking the Government whether they intended to take any action in the matter. He might mention that the vote for the \$5,000 for the reward was passed almost unanimously, and that two of the hon. gentlemen in the Cabinet were also members of that Cabinet and were responsible for the position then taken. He considered that they would have taken steps to carry out the opinions then expressed.

The hon. member for Bruce South (Hon. Mr. Blake) made a speech in the Ontario Legislature in which he made the following observations—"Sir,—I say that unless the Province speaks out we may yet undergo the humiliation and disgrace of seeing the murderer of one of our people elected to the Parliament of Canada, and representatives from Ontario sitting in Council on the affairs of the country with one guilty of murder. I warn this House and this Province that unless we act in this matter the murderer will go unpunished. To adopt the amendment will be to affirm that we are not to interfere, although this barbarous murder has been committed; that the men of Ontario are not to interfere, although the blood of one of their number had been spilled; that they are not to do their best, be it great or small, in order that that blood shall be avenged."

The excitement upon this subject was increased in Ontario by the fact that speeches were made in all sections of the Province.

At Bowmanville the hon. gentleman said with reference to the Scott murder, "The murdered man was an emigrant from our Province. He was one of ourselves, and I am not yet going to abandon the view that the representatives of the people of this Province have such a special concern and interest in the life of the meanest of the men whom the Province has called its own, as to render it a fit and appropriate duty for those representatives to use every exertion to procure justice to be done, when that life has been

fully taken—that he has been murdered for loyalty to his Queen and country."

At a later period some little difficulties presented themselves, no doubt, to the hon. gentleman, and, when they had been in power for some little time in Ontario, the hon. gentleman could make speeches without referring to the Scott murder until the elections called his attention to the fact, and then he gave his opinion as freely as on former occasions. When his attention was called to the murder at the nomination of Mr. Crooks, who had then been appointed to some office in the Ontario Government, he said, "With regard to the Scott murder they had had a good deal of talking, and now they were going to have some action. (*Cheers.*) It was time some steps were taken."

At the election for Toronto West, when he was again called upon to allude to that question, he said he had no objection to telling them about Riel. He had always said that the murderer of Scott should receive a fair trial before a jury of his countrymen, and it was a disgrace to this country that he and his confederates were not tried long ago. He (Mr. Bowell) fully concurred in all the opinion expressed by the hon. gentleman. It was well known that the Attorney General of Ontario (Oliver Mowat) was brought from the Bench to take the lead of the Party. He found that the following telegram was sent from Collingwood to that gentleman on the 1st November last year. It ran:

"Can I arrest Riel without a warrant? Is the reward still good? James Thompson, Chief Constable."

At that time he had reason to believe that the chief constable had good reason to know Riel was in Collingwood going Northwest upon the steamer. Whether that was so or not he could not state positively.

Hon. M. CAUCHON: He was not there.

Mr. BOWELL: The hon. gentleman says Riel was not there, and he had no doubt the hon. gentleman knew more about Riel's whereabouts than he (Mr. Bowell) possibly could. If he would only tell the country where he was to be found, he would satisfy a great many people of the Dominion.

The answer sent by Mr. Mowat, after the departure of the steamer, was as follows:

"Warrant seems necessary. Proclamation offering reward has not been revoked. Why do you enquire? Riel, being now an M.P., the Ottawa authorities must deal with the case."

"J.G. Scott, for the Attorney General Rossin House, Nov. 3, 1873."

That was the opinion of the Attorney General for Ontario, whose legal knowledge ought to be respected. When he (Mr. Bowell) found this telegram had been sent to the constable, he thought it would be excusable for him to ask if the Government intended to take any action in the matter. He had now, he thought, justified the position he had assumed the other night in asking the Premier and the Government whether they intended to take any steps in connection with the matter.