

of this fresh evidence, to see whether, in view of it, he was in a position to recommend the prisoner to mercy. Mr. Speaker, we find another ground for clemency in the undue influence which was allowed to prevail during the trial in some particular facts. All the witnesses who were examined on the part of the Crown, or a great many of them, attributed the insanity plea to a purpose. They stated that Riel was not really insane, but that he was feigning and simulating insanity for the purpose of succeeding in his rebellion. This opinion, which was expressed by so many witnesses, was due to the great influence which prevailed in that portion of the country against Louis Riel; the witnesses had no reason to suppose that the insanity plea was only put up by counsel, and that the prisoner was feigning insanity for a purpose. When we consider that this trial took place under military guard, to protect the prisoner against public indignation, we can easily imagine the great undue influence that was allowed to prevail against the accused; when we examine the petitions which were sent to the Government asking for the execution of Louis Riel, we are surprised to see that not a single petition came from the whole Dominion except from Regina, where the man was being tried and convicted, and another from Moosomin, a short distance away—all coming from the very district whence the jurors were taken, where the judge was sitting, and where, within a short distance from the place, even the judges in appeal were sitting. I also blame the Government for not having exercised clemency, because the judge refused to allow some particular facts to be proved. I do not agree with the leader of the Opposition that the State papers which were asked for had no bearing upon the case, because they could not justify rebellion. I do not pretend that these papers would justify rebellion; I know they would not justify rebellion, but at the same time I think they might have gone a long way with the court in mitigating the sentence, if not in altering it. I blame the Government for the execution, because they were aware that important witnesses could be summoned, but that they did not summon them. The name of Dr. Howard has been mentioned during this debate. I am sorry, indeed, that the hon. member for Montreal Centre (Mr. Curran), sitting here, as he does, as a judge, went to a man, whom he considered to be an important witness, and asked him his opinion on the case. He knows very well that is not the way cases are conducted by judges, or even by lawyers. I would have been very glad indeed if the Government, in issuing the medical commission, had given instructions to examine Dr. Howard, to have him cross-ex-