

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

FIFTH PARLIAMENT.—FOURTH SESSION.—BUSINESS
TRANSACTED RESPECTING INDIAN AFFAIRS.HOUSE OF COMMONS,
Ottawa, Mar. 1.

CASE OF LOUIS RIEL.

MR. COURSOL—Did the Government, after the conviction of Louis Riel, appoint a medical commission to inquire into the mental condition of the prisoner; if so, did the commission forward the report to the Government, and is it the intention of the Government to lay the report before the House?

SIR JOHN MACDONALD—The Government caused an enquiry to be made by a medical practitioner as to the mental accountability of Louis Riel since his conviction, and also procured a report from the visiting surgeon of the prison on that subject. These reports will be laid before the House at once if moved for. The hon. gentleman may as well move at once.

MR. COURSOL moved for the papers accordingly. The motion was carried.

MR. CAMERON (Huron) wished to know if the Government would publish the reports of the speeches of the counsel at the Riel trial. The published report of the trial did not contain these, but the evidence only.

Hon. J. A. CHAPLEAU said the speeches were certainly not printed, as the report only professed to be a report of the evidence. If the speeches were desired they could certainly be included in the next edition.

MR. LAURIER—Does the Government intend to lay on the table of the House all petitions and communications asking for the commutation of the sentence of Louis Riel?

SIR JOHN MACDONALD—The hon. gentleman should move for these.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

MR. SOMERVILLE, for a return showing the amounts paid to Chief Kah-ke-wa-quo-na-by by the Government during the past four years.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
Ottawa, Mar. 3.

RIEL DOCUMENTS.

MR. AMYOT moved for copies of all documents forming a record in the case of her Majesty against Louis Riel, tried at Regina, including the jury list, names of the jurors challenged, the list of jurors empanelled, motions and affidavits filed, evidence, incidents of trial, addresses of counsel and of prisoner, charge of judge, the names of the judges, or assistant judges who tried the case, the names of the counsel for the prosecution and for the defence, and, in short, of every document whatsoever relating to the trial, and also of the verdict and the recommendation to the mercy of the court.

MR. THOMPSON—All papers embraced in the motion which are accessible will be brought down.

MR. BLAKE suggested that the documents circulated by the Government among the members of the House should be formally laid on the table.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD—Certainly.

MR. BLAKE—Also copies of all orders-in-Coun-

cil respecting the several respites granted to Louis Riel before his execution.

MR. THOMPSON—There is no order-in-Council on that subject.

The motion was withdrawn.

MR. CAMERON—Another point he wished to make was that Indians had been put upon the voters' lists by the revising officers, and not at their own request.

MR. ROBERTSON—(Hamilton)—Name, name.

MR. CAMERON said he did not propose to give the name, but he said he was informed of this by a good authority.

MR. PATERSON (Brant) rose to correct the statement that the Indian agent had furnished names to the revising officers. This would be contrary to the law. The Indians of Brant reservation were enrolled by the revising officer himself. His view of the Act was, as at present worked, that it did not give the uniformity promised.

MR. COOK said that in a case of which he was cognizant, an attempt was made to form a Conservative Association among the Indians. The Indians refused to join, whereupon the revising officer, finding they were Reformers, declined to put them on the list, on the pretext that they did not belong to the constituency for which he was acting. He could, moreover, point to a revising officer who had actually refused to accept the declarations of persons who desired to be placed on the list. Such a person should not be a revisor in any respectable constituency. There was a feeling of indignation against him that could not be quelled. (Laughter.) Not only were the Liberals indignant, but the feeling had spread to respectable Conservatives—and there were a few—(laughter)—who had left the Tory party to support him (Mr. Cook). The office should be taken from this revisor, and in addition he should be deprived of his judgeship. He (Mr. Cook) could not produce the rejected declaration in question, because the judge had retained them. He could promise the judge that he would require him to act honestly, and, he added, "If he does not, I will see that he does." (Laughter).

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
Ottawa, Mar. 8.

REBELLION PRISONERS.

MR. THOMPSON (Antigonish), answering Mr. Blake, said 46 half-breed prisoners, 81 Indians, and 2 whites were committed for trial in connection with the North-West rebellion. Eighteen half-breeds were tried for treason-felony, one for high treason, and one for murder. Eleven were discharged on their own recognizances of \$4,000 each, to appear for trial when called upon. One, Adolph Nolan, tried for treason-felony, was discharged by order of General Middleton. Two others, who were held for trial and who would have been tried during the present month, were discharged and proceedings discontinued by his (Mr. Thompson's) direction. Four others were discharged at Battleford, one being a cripple. Of Indians, 44 were convicted on various crimes, nearly all for treason-felony. One was for manslaughter, three for arson, and five for horse stealing, one for cow stealing, and one for breaking gaol. The others were convicted of

treason-felony. They were discharged on promising to come up for trial when required. Three were acquitted, and the remainder of the Indians charged with various offences, were discharged at Battleford. Of the whites two were held for trial. W. H. Jackson was accused of treason-felony and acquitted on the ground of insanity. The other, Thomas Scott, accused of treason-felony, was acquitted.

FRANCHISE BILL.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD, answering McMullen, said the question of introducing amendments to the Franchise bill during the present session was under discussion.

RIEL'S CASE.

MR. THOMPSON, answering Mr. Desaulniers, said there was no means of ascertaining the intention of the jury in the case of Louis Riel, in recommending the prisoner to mercy, except by enquiry from individual jurors who composed the jury; and that, he thought, had not been considered a constitutional mode of seeking interpretation of a verdict. So far as he was aware, no communication or letter had been received by the Government from one or more of the jurors in the case of Louis Riel, informing them that the intention of the jury in recommending said Louis Riel to the mercy of the court was to exempt the prisoner from the death penalty. If the papers contained any such they would be brought down.

THE RESOLUTION OF REGRET.

On the order of the day being called for Mr. Landry's motion, expressing regret that the death sentence on Riel had been carried into effect.

SIR JOHN MACDONALD rose and said:—"I must ask my hon. friend to allow the motion to stand until Thursday. I hope the discussion will be continued *de die in diem* until it is disposed of. I may say here in connection with this motion that it is considered by the Government of such importance that they will not go on with the estimates, or enter upon the budget, until they know how they stand in regard to this matter."

INDIAN MONEY.

MR. DAWSON moved for a return of all statements and estimates made by the Department of Indian affairs of money due to Indians under the Robinson treaty, etc. He said the Manitoulin treaty was harsh, and onerous in its provisions. Some of the Indians who had resisted them were now thriving and prosperous, while others who had kept the treaty were in a state of poverty. The amount the Indian had received was \$1.79 per head per annum. Petitions had been sent to the Government, and he had hoped action would be taken on the matter. The motion passed.

OTTAWA, March 11th, 1886.

MR. LANDRY moved his motion condemning the Government for the hanging of Louis Riel. The debate is now going on—both sides of the House making powerful speeches.

As the Government considers this motion one of want of confidence, the discussion is likely to be a long one, as the continuance of the Conservative party in power depends upon the vote upon this motion. Sir John has been ill with a bad cold and has not as yet taken part in the debate.

THE INDIAN will keep a strict watch upon the members during this session, and inform its readers, from Hansard, of the expressions they use regarding our people.