

tidings of sympathisers in the older Provinces were flashed across the wires, and rebels were made happy, hopeful and aggressive. Knowing these things, one turns involuntarily to a vacant chair in this House, at which none of us can look without moistened eyes; and all feel it and know it to be an insult to tell us we are responsible for sending out our brothers to the North-West to be murdered in cold blood or to die from the effect of war's hardships. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Cameron) knows, when the record comes to be written, it will not be the record he represents, but a constitutional record, written, I hope, by one who values his own position in politics and in public life, and who would therefore scorn to resort to such petty and ungenerous tactics. The hon. gentleman told us that the Government should have been on its guard, seeing there was so much trouble brewing, and should have done something to maintain the peace, honor and happiness of the North-West. Why, the very fact that the Department of Indian Affairs sent 100 policemen to Prince Albert was the signal, as shown in these documents, for the general uprising and the murder at Duck Lake. Had the Government hastily sent soldiers up there months ago, what would have been the cry? It would have been: "Oh! there is your policy; that is to save the ranchers and the colonisation companies." There would have been a howl against military expenditure, against the utilising the army of snobbery, as it was called in 1883, when the Minister of Militia undertook the re-organisation of the militia. The Government would have been charged with deliberately squandering the money of the country in order to save the colonisation companies, and the timber lands, and the ranche lands of their friends, and with oppressing and tyrannising over the poor half-breeds; and instead of the amendment now under discussion, we would have had to discuss an amendment of a very different character. The hon. gentleman last night deemed proper to insult the Government and the party of which I am an humble member by referring to the colonisation companies; and he insinuated that they had caused all the trouble. What do I find? Here is the prospectus of the Dominion Land Colonisation Co. (Limited), capital \$500,000; president, H. S. Howland, and solicitors, Messrs. Blake, Kerr and Cassels. Mr. Howland—a leading Reformer, and the solicitors—well the first name is enough. Does anyone in his senses say that a colonisation company, which had paid a large sum of money into the Government for land, was going deliberately to ruin its prospects by fomenting a rebellion. Yet that is what hon. gentlemen opposite charged the colonisation companies with. Would any one believe the leader of the Opposition would act for a colonisation company that had such hellish designs in view? The hon. gentleman talked too about timber limits having been given to supporters of the Government. As I have never been interested in one acre of land in the North-West—and I am happy now, to be able to say so—I can speak without prejudice; but I desire to call the hon. gentleman's attention to this fact, that when his party was in power, this Reform party, which has such respect for the feelings and the instincts of the people, and such high regard for constitutional honor, it signalled its closing hours of office by a remarkable transaction. When the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) was Minister of the Interior in the Mackenzie Administration, of which the hon. member for West Huron was a warm supporter—though not quite so active as he is now, in Opposition—this gentleman, after the people had voted non-confidence in him and his leader, met his colleagues in council, and proceeded to encumber and hand over to a monopoly nearly all the timber lands in the valley of the Saskatchewan. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Mills) shakes his head; but I have the Order in Council, passed on the 7th of October, 1878:

"The Minister of Interior reported on 4th October, representing that being of opinion that it would encourage and facilitate settlement in the valley of the Saskatchewan if facilities were afforded for obtaining lumber at a reasonable price, which he understands cannot be done at the present time—he recommends that a timber limit to the extent of 200 square miles on the Saskatchewan River and its tributaries in the North West Territories, be granted to Messrs. Cooke and Sutherland, the same to

be selected by them in blocks of not less than 20 square miles—the bonus payable on the said limit to be at the rate of \$15 per square mile."

Well, he found his friends were not quite satisfied, and he thought he ought to do something more to facilitate the progress and comfort of the people of the North-West and particularly of the Saskatchewan valley, and he added:

"That the applicants shall have a period of 3 years within which to make selection of limits."

The Government was then just going out; they had been beaten on the 17th of September, 1878, and the day before resigning they passed this Order in Council. One sees the injudiciousness of the proposition of the Crown. The proposition was to give control to a combination, over 200 square miles of timber lands throughout the Saskatchewan valley, to be picked out in lots of 20 square miles. The consequence would be, they would get all the good timber and have at least from 10 to 20 monopolies throughout that country—and that was to decrease the price of timber. It was to give the settlers cheap timber, but to put the timber into twelve monopolies instead of one, but that one controlling the twelve.

"That the applicants shall have a period of three years within which to make selections of the limit, which shall not interfere with any lands which may be set apart for the Canadian Pacific Railway, or for reserves for Indians or school lands, or with any other timber limits which may have been previously granted."

Mr. MILLS. Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKINTOSH. The hon. gentleman says "hear, hear." He knows that some of these timber limits were then in the hands of their friends and were under the control of these men. They changed the men, but not the object.

"The Committee submit the foregoing recommendation for Your Excellency's approval.

"W. A. HIMSWORTH,
"Clerk Privy Council."

On the 26th December that order was cancelled by the Conservative Government, yet the gentleman who endeavoured to perpetrate this job call themselves the friends of the half-breeds and the would be saviours of the North-West. If the half-breeds merely want friends who are always professing to plead for them, the country can do no better than to keep these hon. gentlemen in Opposition, for certainly, from 1873 to 1878, it cannot be proved from the record that they ever lifted their hands to help the half-breeds, or the surveys either. The next thoughtful act of the member for Bothwell, as Minister of Interior, was to introduce a Colonisation Railway Bill in March, 1878.

Mr. MILLS. Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKINTOSH. I know there is no Bill that the hon. gentleman is prouder of, and perhaps the reasons are that he withdrew it, and it never became an Act. The hon. gentleman has said a great deal about settlers' rights, and we shall hear a good deal more from him presently on that subject, and the hon. member for West Huron (Mr. Cameron) has talked about them, and the hon. member for West Durham (Mr. Blake) has also talked about settlers' rights. In regard to this Bill, of which the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Mills) is so proud, I ask the House to allow me to dissect a few paragraphs. The hon. gentleman was afraid of railway monopolies. After providing for the Pacific Railway, he proposed to give all the lands of the North-West to any number of companies, and to locate and allot that land so soon as the companies were formed, and put up a percentage on the stock it was necessary to subscribe. The hon. gentleman has his ideas in reference to the homestead settler. Listen to this:

"The Governor in Council may vary or entirely change the mode of disposal of Dominion lands lying within a certain distance of a railway constructed under this Act, as regards homesteads, pre-emptions, sales and bounty land entries from those contained in the Dominion Lands Act, by reducing the quantity of land which may be granted in free homesteads or by withdrawing the homestead right altogether on such lands, and may fix a price for such lands, and order that such lands may be sold exclusively for cash, with or without conditions of actual settlement, as may be deemed expedient."