

and again and stated the case of the Indians. I have said it was a case of hardship, and we could not, as christian men, allow them to starve. We have done all we could to put them on themselves; we have done all we could to make them work as agriculturists; we have done all we could, by the supply of cattle, agricultural implements and instruction, to change them from a nomadic to an agricultural life. We have had very considerable success; we have had infinitely more success during our short period, than the United States have had during twenty five years. We have had a wonderful success; but still we have had the Indians; and then in these half-breeds, enticed by white men, the savage instinct was awakened; the desire of plunder—aye, and, perhaps, the desire of scalping—the savage idea of a warlike glory, which pervades the breast of most men, civilised or uncivilised, was aroused in them, and forgetting all the kindness that had been bestowed upon them, forgetting all the gifts that had been given to them, forgetting all that the Government, the white people and the Parliament of Canada had been doing for them, in trying to rescue them from barbarity; forgetting that we had given them reserves, the means to cultivate those reserves, and the means of education how to cultivate them—forgetting all these things, they rose against us. Why, Sir, we are not responsible for that; we cannot change the barbarian, the savage, into a civilised man. Look at the United States; consider the millions that they have expended in defending their frontier; look at the war that is now going on on the south-western frontier, where there is infinitely more loss of life among the tribes of Apaches than has occurred in all our North-West. It is an inglorious war, and there has been a great loss of life; but Americans do not take the part of the rebel and the traitor; that is reserved for the leader of the Opposition in the Parliament of Canada. We acquired the North-West country in 1870. Not a life was lost, not a blow was struck, not a pound nor a dollar was spent in warfare, in that long period that has since intervened. I have not hesitated to tell this House, again and again, that we could not always hope to maintain peace with the Indians; that the savage was still a savage, and that until he ceased to be savage, we were always in danger of a collision, in danger of war, in danger of an outbreak. I am only surprised that we have been able so long to maintain peace—that from 1870 until 1885 not one single blow, not one single murder, not one single loss of life, has taken place. Look at the United States; along the whole frontier of the United States there has been war; millions have been expended there; their best and their bravest have fallen. I personally knew General Custer, and admired the gallant soldier, the American hero; yet he went, and he fell with his band, and not a man was left to tell the tale—they were all swept away. The American army have suffered by hundreds; the American Treasury has been depleted by millions. We have, from a combination of unfortunate circumstances, had one war inconsiderately commenced, wickedly commenced, criminally commenced by the instigators. We put that down speedily and gallantly; and, Sir, it is one consolation, that if we have seen young men sacrificed, if we have lost from this House, as a consequence of that war, one of the most respected members, they went up there of their own accord to fight the battle of their country; they have gained glory and distinction, and they have convinced, not only us—we do not want that conviction—but the mother country, in whose good opinion we take so much pride, that we have as good a militia as their own, that we have men who, untrained as they are, still can listen to the voice of discipline, and will do everything they are called upon to do to maintain the credit of their country. Their action has raised the credit of Canada, not only among the right-minded thinking men of the world, but even in the sordid purlieus

of the stock exchange. The credit of Canada has risen, because Canada has shown, as a vindicator of herself, that she is worthy of being a nation, and worthy of the credit of the world.

Mr. LAURIER moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and the House adjourned at 1:10 a.m., Tuesday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, 7th July, 1885.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at half-past One o'clock.

PRAYERS.

WAYS AND MEANS—THE DISTURBANCE IN THE NORTH-WEST.

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Mr. Bowell: That the House resolve itself again into Committee of Ways and Means, and the motion of Mr. Blake in amendment thereto.

Mr. LAURIER. There is an old saying well known to all of us that a good lawyer can make of a bad cause a good one. The speech of the right hon. gentleman yesterday must have convinced everyone of us that there are cases so desperately bad that all the ingenuity of the ablest counsel cannot make them appear good. The case must be desperate indeed when a gentleman of the high position which the right hon. gentleman occupies in this House, does not scruple to torture the words of his opponent, in order to make out a case for himself. In the very beginning of his speech, the hon. gentleman adopted that system, and he kept it up to the end. In almost his opening sentence the right hon. gentleman stated that my hon. friend, the leader of the Opposition—in the long, as he characterised it, and as he might have said, the most able speech ever delivered by my hon. friend—while presenting the claims of the half-breeds in the North-West Territories to a special grant of land, had not in a single instance stated that the claim was a just one. The hon. gentleman forgot, and he should not have forgotten, that my hon. friend at the very outset of his speech affirmed the justice of the case of the half-breeds in the most characteristic manner, in the following language:

"Justice is the same everywhere. Justice is the same, whether it be on the banks of the Saskatchewan or on the banks of the Red River; justice demands that the same treatment which has been extended to the half-breeds on the banks of the Red River shall also be extended to the half-breeds on the banks of the Saskatchewan."

The right hon. gentleman, Sir, forgot that statement, and the case has to be a desperate one indeed when it has to be supported with such a distortion of facts. Again, the hon. gentleman, proceeding in the same line, in order to clear himself of the charge that was brought against him of having failed for seven years to dispose of the claims of the half-breeds, stated that the Mackenzie Administration had not only failed to dispose of those claims, but had actually denied their justice; and in order to prove his statement he proceeded to quote with great apparent glee from a State paper of my hon. friend from Bothwell (Mr. Mills) while in the Mackenzie Government. That paper was addressed to Mr. Laird, at that time Lieutenant Governor of the North-West Territories, in answer to an application made by him for seed grain on behalf of the half-breeds. The hon. member for Bothwell wrote as follows:—