

"Besides that, if the Government would only reflect for a moment, they would soon find that they also owe me something in addition to that."

The hon. member for West Huron said it was represented that if Riel was paid some small amount of money, he would leave the country and that if he had left, there would have been no rebellion; so that, in this case we find the hon. gentleman advocating the cause of Riel, advocating his remaining in the country and fighting the battles of the half-breeds, on the ground that coming from Montana he had a claim against the Government and something in addition. Suppose that addition was not paid; suppose the grievances were all settled, and each man got 240 acres, whether he was entitled to it or not; and suppose Riel had that great power and influence he is represented to have, would he be satisfied with 240 acres, or would he claim something else in addition? The hon. gentleman will see the dilemma in which he places himself, and the dilemma he puts me in with regard to voting for his amendment. Now, the hon. member for West Huron and others who have preceded him have said that the Government should have taken warning. I shall show that Riel came to the country a wolf in sheep's clothing, that he had no respect for his friends, that he had no reverence for the priests, that he did not care a snap of his fingers for the church, and that he went there, as ambitious and unprincipled a man in 1885, as he was in 1870; but with regard to Riel's visit being for war or bloodshed, no such construction could be put upon it at the time; in public he was diplomatic and prudent, while behind the curtain, he was working another and evidently far more dangerous game. Working too with the friends of the hon. gentlemen opposite; those Indians of the North-West who have been so oppressed and abused, and malignod and starved. An address of welcome was presented to Mr. Riel on the 8th of July, and his answer to it, as some of the papers said, appeared to be more moderate than some of the agitators desired it to be. One of them, writing to *Le Manitoba*, on the 10th of July speaks of it in the following terms:—

"It cannot be denied that some of his hearers who expected from him a vigorous onslaught on the Government have been in a measure disappointed. But Mr. Riel is not a political man neither was his speech addressed to a political meeting."

Still we were told last night that he is a warm friend and supporter of the right hon. gentleman who leads this Government—

"He referred to the means which should be taken to obtain redress for their grievances, and stated that in order to obtain something from a Government, no threats should be used, but that their requests should be couched in terms of respect and confidence in the manner in which a respectful child speaks to a kind father."

My impression is that a good many kind fathers in this country would not care to have their children speak to them in the way Mr. Riel has spoken to the Government and people of this country. The result of this first interview was the convocation of a public meeting at Prince Albert on the 11th of July following; and the correspondent of *Le Manitoba* speaks of Riel as follows:

"It is admitted on all sides that the ex-president is a quiet, moderate and well informed man, appearing well worthy of the confidence his countrymen have placed in him."

Another meeting was held at Prince Albert, on the 19th of July, at which Riel spoke. The correspondent of *Le Manitoba* writes of his speech as follows:—

"He wishes to co-operate with all of them in harmony and in peace, in order to obtain from the Government that which is just. In order to succeed they must use none other than constitutional and pacific means."

Later on, he said:

"He spoke of the Indians and the half-breeds. He does not believe that they have as yet received sufficient compensation for the enormous extent of lands which have been taken away from them. They should not be trifled with or treated unfairly; otherwise, they may become dangerous."

Then, on the 29th of July, 1884, the *Le Manitoba* received a communication from Prince Albert, which said:

"Big Bear, a chief of the Crees, and a very intelligent person, who has always given much annoyance to the Government, and is now stationed
Mr. MACKINTOSH,

In the neighborhood of Battleford, is on the way to St. Laurent, where he purposes to have an interview with Riel. It is certain that most of the Indian chiefs will try to confer with Riel, but he will only give them good advice, and whilst assuring them that he will do all in his power for their benefit, he will not bias their minds so as to render them intractable."

Then came his meeting with his Lordship Bishop Grandin on the 5th of September, which I need not now refer to, and a later meeting in January. Then we lose sight completely of Louis Riel, until the trouble broke out in March.

Mr. BLAKE. Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKINTOSH. I am quoting now from the document in my hand, that nothing more was heard of him until the rebellion broke out:

"This was the last heard of Riel, till it was announced that he had taken possession of the stores at Batoche, that he had made prisoners, that his soldiers, under the command of Dumont, had routed the Mounted Police at Duck Lake."

That is an extract from *Le Manitoba*. Then what do we find? We find not one of the Reform papers prepared to assist the Government by even sympathetic or patriotic advice, but rather proving recreant to their trust by the most ungenerous criticism and by such a course as promised to give infinite relief and encouragement to the rebels of the North-West. The very moment the trouble commenced, that very moment the *Globe* made the following remarks:—

"Sir John Macdonald admits that matters looked so serious last summer that it was thought prudent to have an additional force in the vicinity of Prince Albert, that Major Crozier and a 100 men were sent to Carlton, a Hudson Bay Company's post, the use of which was obtained for this purpose. He did nothing, however, but send these policemen to overawe the discontented. Masterly inactivity, perhaps, he imagined, would make the way easy out of this difficulty also. His favorite, Mr Dewdney, and the gang who form that potentate's court are not the men to trouble themselves about the grumbings and repining of a few half-breeds whom it would be so easy to crush if they dared to go too far. Their insolence, their swaggering, and hectoring and bullying, no doubt increased the irritation caused by the neglect of the Dominion Government."

Here, in 1885, we find precisely a repetition of the conduct of this paper and its party in 1869-70, glorying over the ruin of the North-West, glorying over trouble in Nova Scotia, glorying over trouble wherever it could be fomented, hoping, by exciting religious bickerings and sectional feelings, to secure a party advantage. I could quote further from the *Globe* in the same tone, but do not desire to unduly occupy the time of the House. But we find what the Yankees call the "whoop-la business" done by the organ of the Opposition in this city. On the 28th of March, when the report came that some of our unfortunate friends had died in the defence of Canada's rights and privileges, what do we find that paper saying?

"The responsibility for the dreadful massacre near Duck Lake—for it was a massacre—rests upon the present Dominion Government. The blood guiltiness lies with them."

Well, one could imagine during a heated time, when the passions of the people were aroused, a writer making a remark of this kind; but I can scarcely imagine, and I do not think any hon. gentleman could, had he not heard it last night, imagine that a member of this house would, in cold blood, charge this reckless, incompetent, extravagant and ignorant Government—

Mr. CAMERON (Huron). And imbecile.

Mr. MACKINTOSH—with the responsibility of shedding oceans of blood. The *Ottawa Free Press* further said:—

"The deplorable state of affairs there is the natural outcome of their infamous system of North-West administration, which wronged, oppressed and plundered the white and half-breed alike."

Here again was a message sent to the people of the North-West: You have shed the blood of your brothers; the Reform party will stand by you and defend you; and they are carrying out their pledge now. Go on; strike blow after blow at the constitution; take the lives of innocent men; kidnap women—perpetrate all these crimes, and our distinguished leader will rise in his place in Parliament a few weeks from now and say he rejoices over the fact that, not being of your race, he can all the better plead the cause of the poor half-breed. That message went out, the glad