

March 31, 1874

evidence with reference to the contents of papers and not before the House, and he thought they could not take proceedings in outlawry unless on evidence in writing.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON (Cardwell) said that the question was simply, "have any steps been taken?" and the answer, word "yes" or "no". What were the steps was another thing.

The SPEAKER: I think the question is in order.

The question was then put.

A.: Steps have been taken by me, as Crown Prosecutor of the Court of Queen's Bench for the Province of Manitoba, to proceed with the outlawry of Louis Riel, on account of his having evaded the pursuit of justice and refused to come and take his trial.

Mr. BOWELL: Is the Louis Riel to whom you have referred in your evidence as having been indicted before the Grand Jury of the Court of Queen's Bench in Manitoba, and against whom a true bill was returned, and who has since been a fugitive from justice, the same Louis Riel who was elected at the last general election for the electoral district of Provencher a member of the House of Commons of Canada, and whose name appears upon the roll of names of members of this House shown to you by the Clerk of this House?

Hon. Mr. CAMERON (Cardwell) said that he thought the question ought to be amended. It contained in it a statement of what this House would have to find out, which was whether this gentleman was a fugitive from justice. (*Hear, hear.*)

Mr. MOSS said the question might be put in this form—Is the Louis Riel to whom you have been referring in your evidence the same Louis Riel who was elected member of this House for Provencher?

Mr. BOWELL said he thought his question covered the object taken to it. What he (Mr. Bowell) asked was—Is this the Louis Riel to whom you have referred in your answers as having been indicted before the Court of Queen's Bench, and against whom a true bill has been returned? These facts had been established, and, consequently, Riel was a fugitive from justice.

Mr. MOSS said that the witness did not say that. He said that Riel had evaded the pursuit of justice.

Mr. BOWELL then put his question in the following form: Is the Louis Riel to whom you have referred in your evidence the same Louis Riel who was elected a member of this House for the electoral district of Provencher, and whose signature appears on the roll shown to you?

A.: He is the same individual.

Mr. BOWELL: That is all, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. OUMET: State the source of your knowledge of the steps taken by the sheriff and police officers referred to in your answers.

A.: I derived my information from the sworn testimony of the sheriff and officers referred to, and, in some instances, by being myself in command of officers seeking to make the arrest.

Mr. MOUSSEAU: At whose request did you procure the warrant referred to in one of your answers?

A.: If the hon. gentleman will state what warrant he refers to, I can answer. I have referred to several warrants.

Mr. MOUSSEAU: The Bench warrant produced by you here.

A.: I was not asked by anybody to procure that warrant. I brought it here for the purpose, if Louis Riel presented himself, of having him arrested by due course of law. I may add that I had the same warrant with me last December when I came down.

The SPEAKER: I think it would be better if the witness confined himself to the simple questions put to him, and did not volunteer any statements.

Mr. OUMET: State when and in what capacity you put yourself at the head of the police officers of Manitoba to arrest the said Louis Riel.

A.: In the month of February last, and as a Justice of the Peace for the Province of Manitoba.

Mr. MOUSSEAU: Was the indictment referred to in your answer laid before the Grand Jury long before or after the election of Louis Riel in October last or thereabouts to represent the electoral district of Provencher in the House of Commons of Canada?

A.: The indictment referred to was laid in the month of November, 1873 at an extra term of Court. I do not know when the election took place in Provencher.

Mr. OUMET: Were there other persons arrested for the same offense at the time the warrant against Riel was issued?

Hon. Mr. CAMERON (Cardwell) said he did not think the question was a proper one. It was a matter of no importance as far as this enquiry was concerned whether any other person was arrested or not. The next question might be, what are their names?

Hon. Mr. DORION said he thought the question bore as much on the case as any other which had been put. There had been no charge nor any motion on which a question could be put. They did not know why the witness was brought here.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON (Cardwell) said the several questions which had been put were with reference to a person who was a member of this House. The present question had reference to persons who were not members of this House, and they had nothing to do with the arrest of such persons.

The SPEAKER ruled the question out of order.

Mr. MOUSSEAU: Do you know if any election proceedings took place in Provencher last fall?

A.: I am aware that an election took place in Provencher last fall.