

he—no, not he, might do, for we know that these things are never done by persons in authority, but a little bird suggests them, and they get done some how or other. Here is the suggestion :

“ But one thing is clear, namely, that when Riel is captured he ought to be strung up on the first convenient tree, without ceremony.”

Now, that is a sort of sanguinary mode of dealing with the question—a summary method of punishment. Where do I find it? Why, I find it in the *Montreal Gazette*—in the special correspondence from Ottawa, of the *Montreal Gazette*, of the 23rd of March. Now, is that the policy of the Government? Is it to be understood—indicated as this is by the *Montreal Gazette*, by its special correspondent at Ottawa, where the Government is, and where the correspondent is, and where the principal proprietor is, and where are the sources from which it draws its wealth and means—I say is it to be understood that the policy of the Government is to establish lynch law, and string up Louis Riel to a tree, in short order? We have a variety of policies. We have the two policies of the hon. gentleman to which I referred, and now we have the *Montreal Gazette* policy; and really under the circumstances we are pardonably anxious to know what he will do about it. I say it is our duty to vindicate the national authority which has been outraged, to restore the peace which has been disturbed—decidedly, but if it be at all possible, without the shedding of one drop of blood. I say that that done, the course of law should be pursued, the course of law and justice should be pursued in the regular course of law and order; and I regret extremely that in the columns of an influential Canadian newspaper a suggestion so disgraceful as that this act should be committed should have appeared. But there is more to do than that. There is more to do than vindicate the national authority and vindicate the course of justice and law. There is the redress of whatever grievances may exist—those grievances which are said by the Government organs to be substantial—those grievances which existed for a long time, and which the issuance of this commission indicates must have existed. There is another thing which is to be done; for us more is to be done. We ought to receive full information; we ought to have that information which will enable us to know where the responsibility has to be fixed for the delays, for the apathy, for the procrastination, for the neglect, for the want of proper regard and apprehension of the situation, the want of proper decision and fair dealing in the administration of power which have resulted in the present state of things. We want full information upon it. There must be information in the records of the Government. They must have in their offices reports on this subject. If they do not know, if their officers in that country have not reported, we want to know it. We want to know what they are doing with a Lieutenant-Governor there, and other officials, who have not been able to find out that this case has not been serious. But there must be some information; because the hon. gentleman told us, the other day, that he thought it prudent to fortify Fort Carlton and throw a force of men into it, so that there must have been news justifying such a course as long ago as last summer. Why was not a commission issued then, since it had been found that this disturber of the peace was in the country and remained there? Why were not the steps which are now regarded as fit to be taken for a peaceable solution of the difficulty not then taken? We want full and immediate information of every description, which may enable us to ascertain what these grievances are, and of how long standing they are; what steps have been taken towards redressing them; what information the Government has asked from its officers, from time to time, to appreciate the situation; what information has from time to time been received, with a view of dealing with the situation; what the hon. gentleman has learned last summer; what he did

last summer, besides throwing the police into Fort Carlton; and, in a word, we want to know how it comes that a long-standing condition of grievances and dissatisfaction, notorious, at any rate, for a very considerable time, has resulted in the questionable step of last year, of calling on this man to come to the country, with a view to advise—has resulted in the prudential action of the Government last year—how it is that no effectual step was taken to do that which ought to have been done—to convince those people, by all methods of appealing to their reason, their justice, and their consideration, that they were to be dealt with promptly, by removing the causes of dissatisfaction, and thus avoiding the painful condition we are now in, and the difficulty under which we must inevitably labor, no matter how this occasion may end; and I am sure there is a unanimous feeling and hope on the part of every man in this House that it may end very well indeed, and that the precautions the Government have taken may be in excess of the occasion. But I maintain that Parliament would be wanting in its duty if it did not insist on having that information early and immediately, and I maintain that the Government has been wanting in its duty in not granting that information early and immediately, and enabling us to judge. I do not censure; I point out where I conceive the conduct of the Government to require explanation; but the grounds of judgment, either of acquittal or condemnation, ought to be laid before Parliament, and ought to be laid before Parliament at once; and to that end I move, in amendment thereto, to leave out all the words after “that,” and insert the following instead thereof:

“ In the opinion of this House, it is the duty of the Government forthwith to lay before this House the fullest information on the subject of the claims and alleged grievances of the inhabitants of Prince Albert, North-West Territories, and the neighborhood, and of the action of the Government and its officers thereon; and of their action in reference to the movement of last summer, and in reference to the present disturbances.”

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman concluded his speech by saying that he hoped this thing would end well—that it was the wish of every man in this House and every man in the country that it should end well. All I can say, Sir, is that if it does not end well, some of the responsibility will rest upon the hon. gentleman himself. I deeply regret that a man holding the responsible position of the hon. gentleman, once having been a member of a Government, and once having been responsible for the government of that country, should take this opportunity—when men are in armed insurrection, so far as we know, against the authorities of the land; when we do not know whether they may be assisted or not by the savages of the plains—to make a speech for the purpose of attacking the Government, reckless of the consequences, reckless of the knowledge that every word he uses will not only be truly repeated, but will be falsely exaggerated all over the world. It will be read by the Métis from the Rocky Mountains to Winnipeg, that the hon. gentleman has assumed that the Government has been wrong—that he has assumed that there has been delay, neglect, and all the rest of it—that they are oppressed and wronged, and driven to desperation, by the wrong-doing of the Government, by the wilful apathy, the wilful delay, and the corrupt delay of the Government, in preferring to help speculators and friends and influential members of Parliament to settling the wrongs of the Métis. This is the statement that will go abroad, coming from the hon. gentleman; and if they have any encouragement to renew there an exhibition of that spirit, which I believe at this moment is depressed, it will be owing to the statements made at this time by the hon. gentleman, not thinking of his responsibility—careless, rather, of his responsibility—and for the sake of making what he considers a clever speech;—risking the continuance of the peace of this country, risking the chance of an immediate suppression of this insur-