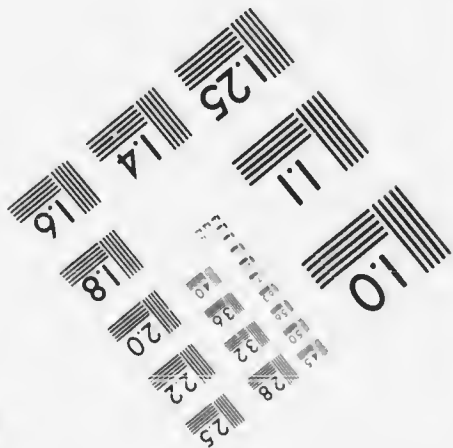
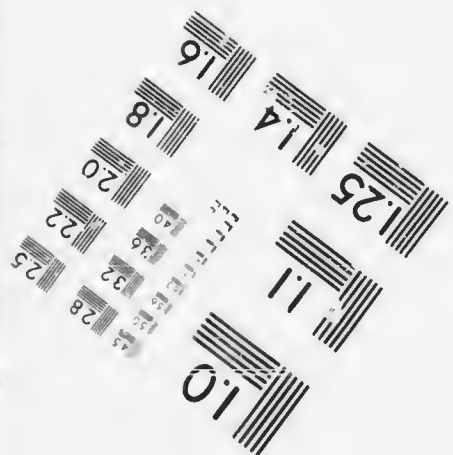
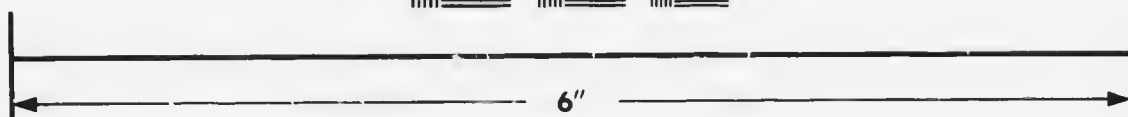
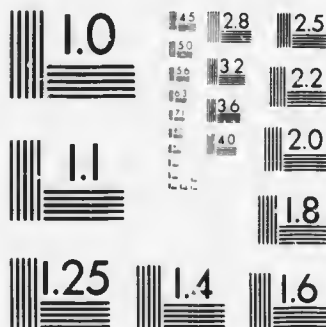


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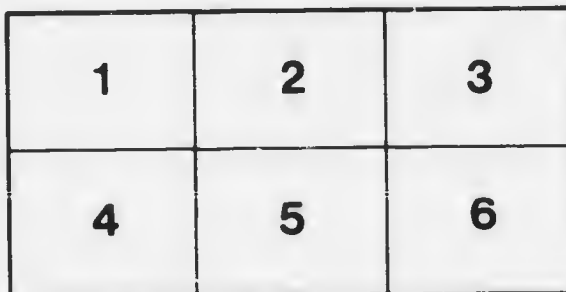
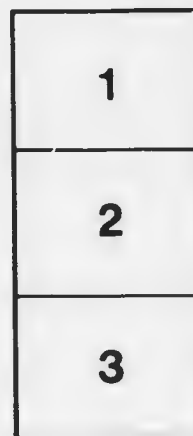
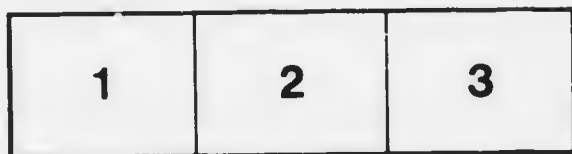
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SPRINGS

OF
HON. MESSRS. WHITE, THOMPSON AND FOSTER,
AT HALIFAX,

On THURSDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 21st, 1886,

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, 1886-7

AND SPEECH OF

HON. MR. THOMPSON,

AT ST. JOHN,

On WEDNESDAY EVENING,
OCT. 13th, 1886.

SPEECHES

OF

HON. MESSRS. WHITE, THOMPSON and FOSTER, AT HALIFAX.

The following is a verbatim report of the speeches at the great liberal-conservative demonstration, at the drill shed, Halifax, on Thursday night:

Thomas E. Kenny, president of the liberal-conservative association, assumed the chair promptly at 7.30, called the meeting to order, and said: The members of the liberal-conservative association of this city and county, under whose auspices this magnificent meeting has been convened, have done me the honor of asking me to preside to-night. It is always a pleasure to me, to comply as far as in my power lies with the wishes of the members of this association, because I believe they are animated by an earnest desire to promote the cause of good government and to advance the prosperity of this city, this province and our grand Dominion generally. I have to congratulate the members of the association upon the presence of the ladies at our meeting. The ladies are ever foremost in every good work and their presence here to-night adds a charm and imparts a grace and dignity to our proceedings. (applause). I know that all the gentlemen whom I see before me have not the happiness of being members of our association. I detect the faces of some friends who belong to the other political camp. I trust we are none the less friendly because we agree to differ politically. But there is one point on which I know a Halifax audience will always be found unanimous, and that is in extending a hearty welcome to the ladies. (Applause.) This morning I met a friend of mine who stopped a moment, to ask me if it was true that I was to preside here this evening, and when I replied in the affirmative he remarked, with that candour which our intimacy warranted, that he thought my time was so fully occupied with my business engagements that I had better mind my own business and leave such gatherings as the present to the politicians. My friend is not on the platform, but he may be within the sound of my voice, and I would say to him

in answer to his remark of this morning, that to my mind the great public questions of the day on which we are to be addressed this evening, concern in an especial manner the business men of the country;—and that in fact the more largely a man is engaged in commerce, the more deeply he is interested in these vital questions. (Applause.) I consider, therefore, that I am minding my own business when I come to a meeting like this, where I shall have an opportunity of hearing some of the ablest men of the Dominion propound their views upon the most important questions connected with trade, commerce and finance and the general policy of the government of the country. No man listening to me shares more fully than I do that feeling of reluctance which I believe comes over most business men when they are asked to take part in a public meeting. I assure you that nothing but a sense of duty ever induces me to do so. But I consider it to be the bounden duty of every man who has anything at stake in the country to endeavor to inform himself on the great political questions of the day and to be ever ready, in a proper, temperate manner, to support that policy and that party which he believes will best promote the welfare of our common country. No greater mistake can be made by individuals or by communities than to imagine that they are not concerned in the politics of the day. On questions of general policy we must expect to find differences of opinion. The proverb says: "Many men, many minds." These differences are the logical consequences of the free institutions under which we live, and every good citizen is prepared to accord to his fellow citizens the greatest latitude in such matters—the same measure of liberty of thought and action which he claims for himself. Whilst I recognize fully the existence of these differences of opinion and these duties of citizenship, I must candidly say that I have no patience with the men who are ever traducing their own country, decrying and belittling the land we live in and extolling foreign countries. (loud applause)

I care not how much we may differ with each other on questions of party politics, but I contend that we should all unite in inculcating amongst our fellow countrymen a love and a pride of country, without which we can never become a truly great people, or fulfil the proud destiny which nature has evidently intended for us. The first condition of individual success is confidence in oneself. All that we require to ensure our national success is confidence in ourselves. We have a country of which we may be justly proud, blessed by providence with great natural advantages. Let us take care that we are worthy of it. On returning to Halifax on Sunday last I was delighted to hear that our good city was to be favored by the visit of our guests of this evening, and I think we are all under obligations to the members of this association for giving us an opportunity of listening to gentlemen of such prominence and recognized abilities as Hon. Messrs. White, Foster and Thompson. I have never had the pleasure of listening to Messrs. White or Foster as public speakers; but their name and fame have preceded them, and I feel assured that at the close of the meeting, whether agreeing with or differing from the views announced by these gentlemen, all will admit that we have had a great intellectual feast. I now have the pleasure of calling upon our fellow citizen and representative in the cabinet, the Hon. Mr. Thompson, minister of justice.

Hon. Mr. Thompson,

who was received with great cheering, said:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I am perfectly conscious that in this great audience, nine-tenths of those whom I see before me must make the same statement that you, Mr. Chairman have made, that you have never yet had the pleasure of hearing the voices of my two colleagues who have come to address you this evening, and inasmuch as I know what has drawn you all together is chiefly to hear these gentlemen discuss the principal questions connected with the politics of Canada, which interest the people of the wide Dominion, from one end of it to the other—rather than to hear my more familiar voice, I am about to make a statement which I am sure will elicit the approval of the whole audience, and that statement is that the remarks which I shall make at the opening of the proceedings this evening shall be exceedingly brief, in order that the greater part of the evening may be given to my two colleagues, Mr. White and Mr. Foster, whom I know you so much desire to hear.

Mr. Chairman, I am sorry to say that an attempt has been made to create a misunderstanding as to the reasons why we are here. An attempt has been made to create an impression in Halifax that we had come down here upon a mission of discord and enmity. The impression has been sought to be created that we are here to-night to abuse our opponents and to increase and embitter the hostilities of public life, which are generally bitter enough without fuel being added to the flames, and an impres-

sion has gone abroad that we are here to stimulate to increased activity the spirit of party zeal, I have no hesitation in saying, sir, that these are erroneous impressions, and I state that the reason we are here is that since the close of the last session of parliament, at various meetings throughout this country, throughout Ontario, Quebec and the maritime provinces, statements have been made and arguments have been put before the people by which not only the policy of the Dominion Government has been assailed in all its great particulars, but the administration of the particular parts of the Government have been assailed and statements have been made derogatory to the character and honor of the public men who compose the Dominion Government and who are supporting it in parliament. Sir, we are here to-night, and we have been at the other meetings, which have preceded this, for the purpose of meeting these statements as fully as they can be met in the limits of a meeting of this kind and for the purpose of admitting to you and other portions of the electorate of Canada that we are responsible to you for the policy on which the government is conducting public affairs, and not only that but that we are bound to satisfy your consciences and judgment, as part of the electorate of Canada, as to the honesty and fairness with which public matters are conducted. We admit sir that the government is upon its trial, as a government must always be, and upon its defence, and it is for the purpose of making that defence upon the leading questions of the day, and not for the mere purpose of personal attack upon our opponents that we appear before a Halifax audience this evening. And sir I am sure—different as undoubtedly the opinions of the persons composing this as well as every large gathering must be, that there is here as there should be everywhere else a determination that men who are upon their defence, and who have a statement to submit to the judgment of the electors, will be given fair play and a full and courteous hearing.

Now I have said sir, that I do not intend to take any considerable portion of the time allotted to us this evening; and in fulfilment of that promise I propose to address to you a few remarks, before I conclude, upon only one of the several subjects which may be open for discussion to-night. And I take up that subject simply for the reason that addressing an audience in a Maritime Province like this, I feel it incumbent as a matter of duty upon any man in my position to make a full and candid statement upon that question. I allude to the question which has recently been drawn into party lines,—the question of enlarged trade relations with the United States. It has been stated recently, and stated I am inclined to think for party purposes, that the Dominion government is opposed to increased trade relations with the United States in the line of what is known as reciprocity. That statement I have no hesitation in giving here upon my responsibility as one owing a particular duty to this community, an unequivocal

denial. The fact is, that since 1866 when the reciprocity treaty, which was looked upon by our people with a great deal of favor, was abrogated, there has been no party and no government in this country that was unfavorable to a renewal of this treaty with the United States on fair and honorable terms. In 1866, when the treaty was abrogated, Sir John A. Macdonald was at the head of the government of the province of Canada, and in conjunction with representatives of the maritime provinces, and as earnestly as the representatives of the maritime provinces could do, he bent his energies in the direction of obtaining a renewal of that treaty. But the obtaining of a renewal of that treaty then was a matter of impossibility because the government of the United States had set itself to abrogate that treaty once for all. In 1868 the question came before the house of commons of Canada. Sir John A. Macdonald (applause) and his friends were still in power and in framing the tariff which was then adopted in view of new trade relations with the United States a clause was inserted which held out an invitation to that country to enlarge trade relations with this country in these terms, that a large number of the products of both countries might be interchanged free on either side. But the United States government were unwilling to enter into such an arrangement. Now, sir, it is made a charge against us that we have not forced upon our neighbors the adoption of a new treaty, and that we have not been pressing forward negotiations in that direction. We have expressed continuously since 1868, as we then did by that provision,—to the government and people of the United States our willingness to enter into proper trade relations with them. And when a proposition was made in 1868, by Mr. Dorion a member of the French liberal wing in the house of commons, that we should do more than this,—that we should do more than seemed consistent with the advantage and honor of Canada, that we should declare by resolution in parliament our desire for a reciprocity treaty, and that parliament should command the government of the country to enter into negotiations with the United States for a new treaty, it was felt by the public men of Canada on both sides that that proposition was not only inconsistent with the honor of the country but with its material advantage, and that resolution was voted down in the house of commons, not by any mere party vote, for if you look at the public record to-day you will find that those who voted against it were not solely the members of the conservative government and party, but side by side with them such men as Mr. Blake, Mr. Mills, Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Cartwright,—so that I think I am right in saying that the record of both parties is consistent upon that question, that in so far as a declaration of an opinion in favor of increased trade relations with that country or with any other is concerned, we have expressed from then till now our willingness to enter into these negotiations, and that it has been deemed desirable by both political parties that there we should rest. (Applause).

In 1874, when our opponents were in power, a step was made that was deemed desirable. The late Mr. George Brown induced his friends, who were in the Mackenzie government, to take very active steps in the direction of negotiations for a reciprocity treaty. He went to Washington to enter into negotiations there, and came back declaring that as a result of his inquiries, everything was ripe for the negotiation of a new treaty, and he returned to the United States armed with large power to enter into negotiations for a treaty. This first attempt in advance of the mere expression of willingness to enter into a new treaty was attended with lamentable failure. It was an attempt honestly made without the shadow of a doubt, but an attempt made, I have reason to believe against the better judgment of Mr. Mackenzie. It not only failed in accomplishing anything but it brought ridicule on those who were pressing forward these negotiations. The result was that in 1878, when Mr. Mackenzie was asked in the house of commons whether he would renew the efforts to obtain a reciprocity treaty, his statement made there, as leader of the liberal party, was that he would do nothing after what had taken place until the first step had been taken by the government of the United States. Now, sir, if we have not any large commercial relations with the United States it is not because the government of the day is unwilling to enter into enlarged commercial relations with that country or any other country, for I have no hesitation in saying here responsible, as I am for every word I utter in that regard, that every member of Sir John A. Macdonald's government to-day, from the leader of the government himself down to the youngest member of the government, is in favor of any fair and honorable reciprocity treaty with the United States. If we have not obtained such a treaty the reason is that according to the old proverb it takes two to make a bargain. There is one individual in this country who lately conceived the original idea that it does not take two to make a bargain and that individual, in the Free Press office at Ottawa, in the absolute dearth of reliable news which he could telegraph abroad, undertook to get up a reciprocity treaty himself, and this treaty he drew up all from his own wonderful brain by patching together the Washington treaty and the reciprocity treaty, and he started this out as being a draft treaty which was pressed by the government of the United States for the consideration of the government of Canada; and the most remarkable thing of it all was that out of sympathy for his secession friends in Nova Scotia he declared that this treaty, manufactured by himself ten minutes before, had been pressed by the imperial government out of consideration for the repeal and secession movement. It was not only exceedingly ingenious and kind to make the treaty, but it was very kind and generous to remember his friends down here by the sea. (Laughter.) But I regret to say that negotiations have not so far advanced by any means, and that that young man is still considerably ahead

of the age. Sir, we feel it our duty to denounce everywhere a statement so misleading to the public mind, as untrue, and to state as I am bound to state, that the document referred to was an utter forgery, and that no negotiations were on foot which would justify any such statements as that bogus treaty contained. It was necessary that we should deny it, not only because it was calculated to mislead the public mind in an important question, but principally because the gentleman who concocted the treaty having found it such easy work, tried his hand next upon an order in council, and we have not only had a bogus treaty, as one forced upon us by the imperial government out of consideration for the repeal of the tariff in Nova Scotia, but we have actually had, paraded before our readers a bogus order in council in which it is represented that the Dominion government is hostile to the terms of such a treaty, and unwilling that such a treaty should be adopted and opposed to it on the ground that it was in conflict with the lines of the national policy. I need hardly tell you, Mr. Chairman, who are somewhat familiar with the terms of such documents that the supposed order in council is a fraud and a forgery from the beginning to the end, but those who are not so well acquainted with documents of that kind—who are not so familiar with the forms and expressions contained in such documents, might suppose from reading that bogus treaty and alleged order in council, not only that a treaty was proposed by the government of the United States, but that the Dominion government had deliberately refused to go on with such a proposition. I am here tonight to give the statements concerning the alleged proposals of the government of the United States in this regard an unequivocal denial. I repeat the statement which I made in the beginning of my remarks this evening, that every member of Sir John A. Macdonald's government, from Sir John A. Macdonald himself down to the youngest member, is in favor of any honorable reciprocity treaty with the United States. But we say that after the avowed willingness of this government, as expressed in the customs act, to give reciprocity and after the avowed willingness expressed through Mr. George Brown, when a draft treaty was proposed for the adoption of the United States people, and after the concession that was made last year, when for the purpose of obtaining negotiations we threw open for six months freely the whole fisheries of the country,—after all their efforts have been spurned, we say just in the language of Mr. Mackenzie in 1878 that the first step and the first overture must come from the United States, (applause): for, while we are still willing to make any fair arrangement with our neighbors in that country, we are not willing to go down upon our knees and say that we are unable to live without it. There is, sir, a section of the people of this country which is doing all it can to frustrate and destroy the adoption of such a treaty. They are the people who are continually declaring to the United States that we shall be starving if we don't get a

reciprocity treaty. They are the people who are continually saying to the United States: If you hold out longer you will have starved us into an annexation,—hold out a little longer and the mere desire for a reciprocity treaty will break up the union of the provinces. These are the people who are hindering reciprocity and improved trade relations with the United States, and making it more difficult and more expensive to the best interests of Canada whenever the time comes to negotiate for enlarged trade relations. These are the people who are frustrating to-day the possibilities of such trade relations, and putting in the way of such reciprocity treaty the only opposition which comes from this side of the ocean (Cheers.) Now, sir, I have thus expressed an opinion on a question which I know vitally concerns the people of the maritime provinces, the sentiments which I entertain upon that question, and having done so at greater length than I first intended, I shall keep the promise with which I started and leave the rest of the evening to my friends and colleagues, who I know you will not only hear with fairness and courtesy, but with a great deal of interest and satisfaction. (Prolonged applause.)

The chairman then said it was now his pleasant duty to ask the Hon. Mr. White to address the meeting.

Hon. Mr. White,

on rising was received with prolonged applause. He said:

Mr. chairman, ladies and gentlemen: I can assure you that I feel very deeply indebted to your kindness in coming out in such large numbers to night for the purpose of hearing discussed the political questions that are of interest to us all. Since the close of the last session of parliament, both sides of politics, as represented by their public men, have been holding meetings for this purpose in different parts of the Dominion: In the west, the leader of the opposition, Mr. Blake, (a few cheers) doing his duty in that respect, has been holding a number of meetings to discuss public questions and other public men have been following the same example. The Right Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, (tremendous cheering), the veteran chieftain of the conservative party and the leading statesman of this great Dominion, (renewed cheering), in spite of his age, and notwithstanding the fact that he had just recovered from a serious illness, felt it his duty to visit the people in different parts of Ontario and declare the views which he holds, and the policy which he believes to be best adapted to secure the prosperity of the country, and the policy which, if permitted, he will continue to carry out for the interests of the Dominion of Canada. We have had the pleasure of having with us in the west the Hon. Mr. Thompson, the latest addition to the cabinet from this province, (applause) and the Hon. Mr. Foster, the latest addition to the cabinet from the province of New Brunswick. We have had the pleasure of having them present with us at our meetings

in the west, and they suggested, not unfairly as I think, that some of us who represent constituencies in Ontario should return the compliment by discussing before you questions that are of common interest to us all. In doing this we recognize the fact that we are people of one Dominion. We recognize the fact that questions which are of interest in the west are of equal interest here, and that questions which are of interest here are of equal interest in the west. We recognize the fact too that public men from each province visiting the others and having the opportunity of conversing with their business men will be all the better fitted in considering measures of public policy to adopt such as will be for the benefit of the whole Dominion. My colleague, the hon. minister of justice, has said that we stand to some extent upon our defence. That is always the position of governments. The opposition are the attacking party. For a period of five years we had the easy time of occupying the position of attack, and we were able to arraign the other political party for the manner in which they administered the affairs of the country. During that time we did it so successfully that, though they had been out of office for twenty years so far as all Canada was concerned, and for seven or eight years so far as the Dominion was concerned, when the time came Sir John A. Macdonald was returned to power by the overwhelming majority by which he was sustained. Again in 1878 we went to the hustings to defend the government against the attacks made upon it, and again we were sustained. Then came the elections of 1882 and again the people of Canada, having had four years experience of the national policy and marked its capability for promoting the great industrial growth of the country resolved to continue their confidence in the government and returned them again to power by a majority within two or three of being as great as that in 1878. Since that time the policy of attack and defence has been going on. We have had by-elections and, though it is said that governments begin to die as soon as they begin to live, and in the nature of things they must lose some of their strength and popularity, we have the unparalleled fact that to-day we stand two stronger than we did at the time of the elections of 1882. Now I think I may say that a record of that kind justifies us in believing that we have the confidence of the people. But, recently, our opponents have adopted a different method of attack. It is not so much in reference to the policy we pursue or the results of that policy. Here and there a public man, who has stronger than his neighbors the strength of his convictions, will attack the national policy, but as a general thing the policy now adopted by our political opponents, is a policy, of personal attack,—a policy of what I venture to characterize as slander,—for the purpose of dragging down the characters of members of the government and members of parliament who support them.

You, Mr. Chairman, in opening, referred to the fact that it was to the interest of busi-

ness men to be concerned in regard to public affairs. That is a statement which must be accepted as wise and one which, if it were acted upon, would improve the tone of public discussions and the condition of the country; but if the policy recently adopted in Canada and which characterized the discussions of the last session of parliament, is to be the policy which is to characterize the discussion of public questions in the future, it is calculated to drive out of public life the best men in the country and to degrade public life to the level of men who subsist upon mere slander and vituperation.

My colleague has told you that we are not here for the purpose of attacking our opponents. We have already addressed eight meetings—this is the ninth and I can appeal to those who were present of both parties to bear me out in saying that our object was, not to elevate ourselves by the depreciation of our opponents, but to show our friends who have supported us in the past, that there is nothing in the charges made against us to justify a withdrawal of their support. If they are convinced of that, the record of the future may be left in our keeping, with the assurance that it will be a record which will correspond with that of the past.

The duty with which I have been particularly charged this evening is to deal with some of these questions in relation to which these attacks have been made upon us.

We have been attacked in relation to our dealing with the Canadian Pacific railway company; we were charged in New Brunswick with having acted toward that company in a manner unworthy of government by granting them subsidies and by loaning them money and then compromising the matter by taking two-thirds of the amount in full payment. Let me point out what has been the policy of the government in relation to the greatest public work undertaken by any government in this country,—I might almost say by any government in the world. In the year 1881, I had the privilege in company with the Hon. Mr. Tilley, then finance minister of the Dominion, of attending some meetings in the western counties of Nova Scotia and in the Island of Prince Edward; at that time we were discussing the contract then just entered into between the government of the day and the company. The contract had been arraigned by the opposition as imprudent. It was declared that we had entered into an arrangement which was calculated to sink the company into ruin and bankruptcy,—an arrangement which would not, in its nature, give us the enterprise we desired, but which would embarrass the finances and impede the progress of the country in relation to other works. We had agreed to give \$25,000,000 and 25,000,000 acres of land as subsidies for the construction of the road. It was charged recently against Sir John A. Macdonald that he had made predictions in regard to this money, which had not been fulfilled. The prediction was that we would receive from the sale of lands in the Northwest enough to recoup us the twenty-five millions of money, and because that money has not now found its way into the

treasury, he is charged with having deceived parliament and the company. I venture to say, knowing something of what I speak, that before many years that prediction will be fully realized and that the sale of the lands of the Northwest will return to the government a sum equivalent to the money grant. That cannot be done in a day or even in a year or two. It is a question, allied with the settlement and development of the country, which must take time to accomplish, but that it will be accomplished in the course of a few years no one can now for a moment have any reasonable doubt.

But what were the predictions of the opposition? They told the people that we were giving enough money to the company to build the prairie section of the road, irrespective of the land grant altogether, and that the company would take that money and build that section through the open country which was easy of construction; but that, when they came to the difficult sections, they would declare that they could not go on. We were told that we had made the contract in such a way that the company could build a flimsy road, the standard taken being the Union Pacific when first constructed. We were told that the company would go on so as to make the most money possible out of the contract and would then throw the whole thing on the company, while we would have an incomplete road at a greater cost than if the government went to work and built the road themselves, in the first instance. These were the predictions made by the opposition. What has been the result, ladies and gentlemen? No sooner was the contract signed than the line north of Lake Superior was commenced, and the work went on with a rapidity unheard of even in this country of rapid railway construction. The company honestly endeavored to fulfil their contract in its entirety and sacrificed their American associates, who in all probability believed the statements of the opposition, and supposed that the road would be a tributary to the American system in which they were interested. The company went on with the work continuously until 1884, when they came to parliament and confessed that they had not the means to go on any longer. The American market was closed to them, and the English market was closed to them so that they could not sell their stock, and they were obliged to ask for a loan of \$30,000,000. Had you been in the house at that time, and heard the discussions which took place, you would have heard the chorous of jubilation which went up from the opposition. They fancied that they saw the fulfillment of their own evil predictions. They saw disaster ahead for the company and for the country and they were elated at the prospect. But the government, realizing the importance of not allowing the road to stop, consented to give the loan of \$30,000,000 asked for taking as security therefor the railway, the terminal facilities, the steamships on the lakes and everything in fact that the company owned. We supposed then that the company would go on, but next session they came back again with the declaration that though we had loaned them this \$30,000,000 they still

found themselves embarrassed and unable to go on, and they asked us to permit them to issue \$35,000,000 of bonds, and to take \$20,000,000 of the bonds as security for that amount of the debt, and the land grant as security for \$10,000,000, and they asked us to lend them \$5,000,000 more. The opposition here saw proof of all that they had predicted and they felt that they would be able to go to the country with a declaration that would secure our defeat. But the government still felt that the completion of the railway was essential to the prosperity of the country and the development of the Northwest, and they consented to change the conditions of the security and give the company the \$5,000,000 asked for for one year. Having done so they said to the company to go on. That was a bold policy for any government to adopt, but it was a policy characteristic of this government which recognizes above all things that the country must be developed and its resources made the most of. What has been the result? What has been the reward? I ask you to say whether the government, looking at the result, is not entitled to your confidence and support. (Applause.) It assumed great risks but it did it for the good of the country and with the confidence that they would be justified by the result. When the money advanced to the company was repaid, the hopes of the opposition went down immediately. Although this \$30,000,000, one dollar of which we were never to see, was not due until 1891, last year the company said to the government that if they would take \$20,000,000 cash for the bonds and land at \$1.50 an acre for the other \$10,000,000, they would repay the loan and take the position of an ordinary private corporation, which, having entered into an obligation to the government, had fulfilled it and was discharged.

Of this money,—which in 1884 every member of the opposition told us we would never see a dollar of, this \$35,000,000 which in 1885 we were told was simply an additional gift to the Canada Pacific railway,—\$25,000,000 in solid cash has been paid back, as to \$5,000,000 of it, ten months before it was due, as to \$20,000,000 of it, five years before it was due. We have the lands given back, to us at \$1.50 so that the whole of these loans have been repaid into the public treasury. Now sir, there is one point in regard to that bargain in relation to which we have been attacked. It has been said that we have compromised with the company by taking payment of two-thirds instead of the full amount of the loan. It has been said by one gentleman that they are our own lands and by others that they are worthless. Well, as to the first statement, they are not our own lands, for the simple reason that they formed part of the land subsidy that we gave to the company; and they, having constructed the railway, were as entitled to the land as to the money subsidy. Then as to the other charge about the land being worthless, look back at the discussions when this transaction was entered into. How your fears were sought to be excited by statements of the value of these lands! The lowest figure placed upon them was tw

dollars an acre. Many members of the opposition estimated them as high as five dollars an acre. Mr. Charlton, a liberal member who takes great interest in this subject, and who is generally considered by his party an authority upon the subject, made a most interesting speech in which he reviewed the relations of the American railway companies' overland grants and he came to the conclusion that these lands in the Northwest were worth five dollars an acre. If at that time, when that portion of the country was practically a barren waste, almost shut out from any settlement at all,—if at that time the lands were worth \$5.00 an acre, surely after the railway was built and the country developed by the construction of a line affording easy communication, the lands are worth \$1.50 an acre. (Cheers.) Then, when this contract was let, one of the charges made was that we were locking up an enormous area of that Northwest,—that we were placing no less than 25,000,000 acres of land under the iron heel of a great monopoly, and men's minds were asked to revert to the tenant system existing in Ireland, and it was alleged that the condition of the settlers in the Northwest would be infinitely worse, because we were giving these lands to be thus disposed of. I remember a great speech delivered by Mr. Blake (slight cheers) in Montreal when he placed a large map before him, which had a great blot on it, as indicating what was to be placed in the hands of this corporation, and I remember the speech in reply to this when Sir Charles Tupper (loud and prolonged cheering) pointing to this blot on the map, said: "Large it is I admit, but double the size of it and then you have the land subsidy that Mr. Mackenzie was going to give." (Cheers.) Well if it was an injury to the North-West to place 25,000,000 acres of land under this corporation, surely we are entitled to some credit that we have reduced the area by one fourth, and taken back the difference at a price about one half below what it was estimated to be worth when these gentlemen were objecting to the contract in 1882. Now what has been the result of our dealing with this corporation? And what has been the result to the country? We entered in 1871 into a compact with British Columbia that we would build a railway from the Pacific coast, connecting with the system of railways in Canada, in ten years. That was part of the compact. It was precisely the same as that entered into at the time of confederation that we should build the Intercolonial in order to connect these eastern provinces with the west. As we were attacked at that time in the west, when undertaking the construction of the Intercolonial down here, so we are attacked in connection with the railway in the Northwest, constructed for a similar purpose, that purpose being the uniting by an iron band as well as by the sentiment of a common political ambition, and a common commercial interest, the whole of this great country. Now that was the bargain which we made at that time. It was stated to be a bargain that no one could carry out. It was denounced as the mad scheme of a mad government. One gentleman declared

that the British empire with all its resources could not succeed in constructing that railway within the time which we specified. But what has happened? Down to 1878, although the Mackenzie government recognized the obligation of building the road by the passage of an act for its construction and although they expended some \$12,000,000 with construction and some three millions and a half in connection with surveys, yet in 1878 there was not a single mile of that railway open for traffic or over which a carriage had ever passed. Then, in 1880, we were able to enter into this contract. What has occurred since then? On the 5th Nov., 1885, with the last spike driven and the road complete, although we have lost nearly six years of the time, the road is completed within four years of the time agreed upon in the original contract, and the honor of the country vindicated as well as its material prosperity advanced. What more has happened? We have this road,—not a flimsy, inferior road, but by the testimony of experienced men from the United States and England, one of the best, if not the very best, road upon this North American continent,—a road which has already become so important a factor between the West and East that I find railway journals, such as the "Railway Age" for instance, calling upon Americans to endeavor to prevent the aggressive policy of the Canadians as detrimental to American interest. (Applause.) What more have we? We hoped that by the construction of this road we would get the Asiatic trade, and I can remember, when Sir Chas. Tupper, in one of his speeches in Parliament upon this subject, referred to the possibility of that trade being developed, his opponents laughed at him,—their finest sneers were employed at his suggestion of the possibility of such a trade. What have we to-day? Within a few months three millions of pounds of tea from China and Japan have passed over the Canadian Pacific railway into the markets on this side, and we have this trade at a period far in advance of the time when some of us have hoped for it. What more have we? We have placed England in a position of independence of foreign countries in relation to her means of transport between the great centres of civilization, and we place ourselves to-day in a position in which we have new relations with the mother country,—not simply bound by a tie of devotion on one side, and duty on the other—not by the sentimental tie of loyalty, but bound to her by ties of material interest, becoming a great factor in the greatness of our great mother country in her position in the world. (Cheers.) And what more have we accomplished? We have secured the construction through Ontario and Quebec of competing lines with the Grand Trunk giving to everyone the benefit of competitive rates. And we have secured this in that way, for this could not be done but for the existence of a corporation strong enough to undertake the completion of the bridge across the St. Lawrence and the construction of a Short Line connecting Montreal with the port of

Halifax in summer, thus giving us what has been for so long a time our desire. (Cheers). We have secured relations which any Canadian might be proud of.

And what is the government doing to-day? My friend, the hon. minister of justice, has just referred to the reciprocity question. I can say, so far as I am concerned, that for six years I attended the meetings of the National board of trade in the United States to press the question of free reciprocal relations between the United States and Canada, and that I am just as anxious as our most earnest opponent is for a fair reciprocity arrangement with the United States. (Cheers).

But we do not stand with our arms folded, leaving it to mere accident to give us trade. On the contrary the government have had within the last few months a gentleman of influence and of large commercial experience—a gentleman who is not connected with the matter for mere political reasons, for he is an opponent of the present government—traveling through Canada, meeting our merchants and getting information, and he goes to Australia our sister colony for the purpose of establishing trade relations, so as to bring about a system of trade which will be of great advantage to both countries, and in the development of which trade the Canadian Pacific railway will be a most important factor. What more? Sir George Stephen has gone to England for the purpose of making arrangements for a fast line of steamers,—a line that will be the peers of the Cunarders, and the other great steamships that are the marvel of this age,—and a line that will run to Halifax in winter and Montreal in summer. We have, I believe, the promise from the Salisbury government for a subsidy to a similar line of steamers on the Pacific coast, so that we shall have, as a result of the construction of the Pacific railway, trade development the consequences of which even the most optimistic have no idea. And that has been the result of the policy of this government in connection with a policy which formed the strongest ground of attack upon them in parliament, and in the opposition press of this country. Now, what we have done in connection with the Pacific railway and the building of that railway has drawn attention to matters in the Northwest territories, and has given an opportunity to some people to make very serious charges against the government in regard to the administration of affairs in these territories. You here in Halifax, as much as people in any other part of the Dominion, have an interest in the development of that country, and in the honest administration of everything connected with that territory and I am sure, therefore, that you will not consider it uninteresting if I venture to answer some of the charges in relation to the manner in which we have administered affairs in that part of the country. During the last session of parliament and upon the platform since that time we have been charged with using our relations with the Northwest for the purpose of corrupting members who support us in the house of commons. It has been said that there is hardly a member who is not at this moment in some form or other under the

influence of favors which he has received from the government in connection with the Northwest territories. Now, if these charges were true, I would say undoubtedly that much as you would have to regret having to part with your old friends, it would be your duty to find others to administer the affairs of the country. But we are here for the purpose of submitting to you an answer to these charges and, having submitted the answer, we appeal to your fairness to vindicate the character of your public men by refusing to give credence to such charges. Now, what are the charges? First it is said that we have been distributing timber limits to members of the house of commons and to friends outside the house of commons, and next that we have been giving coal areas and grazing leases to members of the house of commons and friends outside, and have organized a huge system of corruption for no other purpose than to bribe certain people. Let me give you the policy in relation to timber resources. These resources are not large. I am sorry to say that so far as territory is concerned there is comparatively little timber. It is to be found skirting portions of the territory in little bluffs, but there are no great tracts of timber such as prevail in portions of Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick, where the timber has been of such value to business and commerce as well as to the treasury of the Province. These small areas, therefore, have to be husbanded. One of the difficulties first was that people going to the Northwest territories found it exceedingly difficult to get for a reasonable price timber to build their houses, and both governments therefore, and not the present government alone, deemed it proper to adopt a plan by which they would secure the development of timber interests, in such a way as to give the people lumber at lower prices than before. The policy adopted was this: timber areas were divided into fifty square mile areas, and if any of you gentlemen wanted areas you made application to the minister of the interior; and having made your application, if the district was one in which we were giving licenses, an order in council was passed authorizing the minister to issue a license. So soon as that order was passed you had to pay an advance rental of your hundred and fifty dollars; then you had to procure a survey of that territory. You were then obliged to send in your notes of survey and have them confirmed, and finally you had to put a mill up and having done all this then you were in a position to go on and cut timber. There were no doubt many applications made, as at that time there was a boom in the Northwest and people thought that fortunes could very easily be made there. For timber licenses alone there were over two thousand application, but of these only five hundred were recognized by the passage of orders in council authorizing the minister to issue licenses, and in relation to these only one hundred and seven applicants ever obtained licenses. But what has been the results in other respects? The department of the interior received from these

people not less than \$20,000, representing advance rental paid by people who never got licenses afterwards and were never in a position to cut one stick of timber. Well, if there happened to be two or more applicants for the same berth, the policy was to write to the applicants asking what terms they were willing to give, and we have received as bonus from these people, not one of whom ever went any further than this step, the sum of \$21,000 so that no less than about \$41,000 was paid into the public treasury from persons who, I suppose after further minute enquiry, never went any further and never got the licenses. Now there was not very much corruption at any rate in taking such money under such conditions. Well it is said that we gave these limits to members of parliament improperly. I say, sir, that there are but two members of parliament that ever received licenses one of them, Mr. Hugh Sutherland, a supporter of the opposition, and the other, Mr. M. H. Dickenson, a gentleman thirty years in the lumber business, who simply transferred his operations to the North-west as of course he had a perfect right to do. Now that is the whole record of the abuse of the timber limits. But from the charges circulated one would imagine that we kept these timber limits in pigeon holes carefully folded up, (laughter) and that whenever a member of parliament exhibited a disposition to vote against us we simply said to him: "Now, shut your eyes and open your mouth and we will give you this sweat plum of a timber limit and you will vote for us always." But I tell you ladies and gentlemen no man has ever received a license for a timber limit except under conditions open to the world and only two members of parliament have ever received licenses one being a liberal and the other a conservative. Then they tell us we have given grazing leases to members of parliament. What we have done is this—South-west of Alberta is the best grazing territory on the continent. This is admitted by Americans who have driven their cattle across from Montana to Alberta for the purpose of taking advantage of the better feed. The government were in this position. There were these lands but there was a difference of opinion as to whether they were good for ordinary settlement or not. Settlement must be slow, and the government therefore made up their minds to endeavor to develop the resources we had. They adopted the plan of giving grazing leases of 100,000 acres to any one who might be willing to pay two cents an acre for the land, who would in addition engage to place on the land one head of cattle for each ten acres and who would further accept the lease on the condition that it was subject to cancellation, if the government so desired on giving two years notice, and the land should then be open to settlement. We have received \$96,000 by way of rental for grazing leases granted in this way, and on the contracts let this year for the supplying of meat for a period of three years for the mounted police, as compared with the expenditure for the same purpose for the three previous years, we have effected a sav-

ing of \$125,000. (Applause.) This is the result of having the cattle grazing on our own lands and of inducing parties to come in and do business in our own territory. Surely this policy is not to be condemned but to be commended. Have we used these leases for political purposes? I don't know of a single member of parliament who has any interest direct or indirect in them. I should exempt from this statement Senator Cochrane. As a matter of fact the overwhelming majority of leases are held by Americans who were formerly engaged in the grazing business in Montana, in Washington Territory and other places in the United States who have driven their cattle over to our lands, because they find better grazing territory there than that which they have left. As to the coal areas, why any one can go in and buy coal areas if he is willing to pay \$10 an acre for the land and survey it. We have received \$45,000 in payment for coal areas; but as the result, we have given to the settlers of the Northwest coal for fuel at almost one-third the price they paid for fuel before the seams were opened up, and have solved what was formerly a very serious problem. Then in reference to colonization companies. Ladies and gentlemen, what has been the result in reference to these companies? We desired, viewing the results of a similar policy on the other side of the line, to secure the co-operation of private capital and enterprise in the settlement of the country, and we therefore invited persons to enter into contracts for the settlement of particular tracts of country. They were required to pay \$2.00 an acre for the land in advance, and to settle so many persons upon it, and when this was done they were to receive a rebate which would give them land at \$1.00 an acre. We have secured from these companies \$760,253. The companies have expended \$367,932 in bringing settlers in, and, as the result, we have settlements off the line of railway which would otherwise never have been there. It has been said that we did this to corrupt members of parliament. Only ten members of parliament altogether were incorporators in these companies and of these five were liberals and five were liberal-conservatives; and one liberal, who was president of a company, was Mr. Mackenzie, the premier of the late government (laughter and applause), and another, Mr. Scott, was a member of Mr. Mackenzie's government. After having ungratefully driven their former leader from the position he occupied, it is too bad that the opposition should now charge that he has been subjected to these corrupting influences! But, they say, you have been guilty of such conduct as to create a rebellion in the Northwest territories. You are responsible for the rebellion which broke out there because of your conduct and your delay in connection with the half-breed claims. This is so important and so serious a charge and relates to a matter of so great interest that you will pardon me if with some detail I explain the nature of these claims and how the government have dealt with them. In the first place, then, whe

the territory was taken over, there was in the country a large number of original settlers, French and Scotch half-breeds, and the government felt that, because of their Indian blood and the Indian side of their character, they were entitled to some recognition and had a claim to have their Indian title extinguished. I am speaking of Manitoba. The government with this object instructed Governor Archibald to make an enumeration of the half-breeds of Manitoba with reference to the settlement of their claims and the government passed an act in 1871, to determine how these claims were to be extinguished. When Mr. MacKenzie came into power, he appointed Matthew Ryan and Mr. Meagher, of Kingston to make a further enumeration. Their enumeration, when made, differed from that of Governor Archibald. They found a much smaller number of half-breeds, and a further act was then passed setting apart 1,400,000 acres of land for the extinction of the half-breed title. Our experience since, and there has scarcely been a year within which these claims have not been coming forward for settlement, shows that the enumeration made by Governor Archibald was the more correct and if it had been adhered to it would have removed the whole difficulty within two or three years, instead of leaving the claims to drag on. There is no trouble in Manitoba, but the half-breeds who obtained land or scrip in Manitoba, sold it and moved west into the territories. They went chiefly to the point where the rebellion broke out, on the banks of the South Saskatchewan, 250 miles north of the Canadian Pacific railway. It is important to bear the fact in mind, that the rebellion broke out at that point and at that point only, and if I can shew that the half-breeds who settled there had no claims on the government, I think you will agree that they were the last who should have risen against the government of the country. We had petitions from various parts of the Northwest, on the subject of the Half-breed claims. The department of the interior received many of them. A New Brunswick paper says I omitted to point out that from 1878 down to 1885, petition after petition was handed in and they were not recognized. If the writer had gone further back and pointed out that the petitions began to come in in 1873, and continued to come in during the whole time that Mr. MacKenzie was in office, yet nothing was done, he would have stated the fact more accurately. Mr. MacKenzie in view of the petitions appointed Matthew Ryan a stipendiary magistrate, to investigate the claims of the Half-breeds, and I will read you a letter from Matthew Ryan, or a portion of it, to show the instructions he received, and what he considered necessary to be done. (Mr. White here read an extract from Ryan's letter in which he said it would be necessary for him to go to where the half-breeds were, in order to investigate their claims.) Now that was Mr. Ryan's letter to the minister, and a very reasonable letter you will say, it was if the minister was really desirous of settling these claims, and placing himself in a position to justify his attack

upon his successors. What his opinion was is shown by the memorandum written by Mr. Mills, across the margin of the letter "If these half-breeds have claims they will have to look after them themselves. It is not necessary to hunt them up." That was the manner in which Mr. Mill's thought the half-breeds of the Northwest, could be treated.—Mr. Ryan, notwithstanding, thought it was important to make some effort. He went to Q'Appelle for this purpose and having incurred some expense, sent a bill for \$75.00 to Mr. Mills for payment. Mr. Mills was indignant. He refused to pay the expenses incurred and the \$75.00 was not paid to Mr. Ryan until after Sir John A. Macdonald came into office. Now I have pointed out to you, ladies and gentlemen, that the rebellion broke out at this particular spot where these people went to settle as ordinary settlers. There were a number of petitions received from that place. Let me give you what they were. First there was petition from Gabriel Dumont and 45 others asking for the extinction of their claims. It appeared that 36 out of the 45 who signed this petition had already received land or scrip in Manitoba, and consequently had no Indian title to extinguish. Another petition was from St. Louis de Langevin. It was signed by 32 persons of whom 24 had already received and sold their scrip in Manitoba and had no title. A third was from St. Laurent and bore the signatures of 78 persons of whom 60 had already had their title extinguished. This was the case with regard to the three petitions I have mentioned; and I think you will agree that there was no ground for rebellion in that territory on account of the refusal of the government to give scrip for the extinction of a title which had already been extinguished before the people setting up the claim went there.

But it will be said that there were great delays. I say that this paper to which I have just referred speaks of an incident which I myself have mentioned on almost every platform, that the government in the commission which it afterwards sent out, and through the medium of that commission, had settled the claims of between 1,400 and 2,000 half-breeds, and the question is at once asked how is it if there were no claims of that kind that there has been such a large number of claims settled. Well, sir, there were a large class of these people who did not rebel, those who lived at Edmonton and St. Albert. And what was the record of these men during the rebellion? I know of no finer regiment not even excepting the noble regiment, you sent from Halifax, (applause) no finer company was organized to assert the authority of the law and maintain the integrity of the Dominion than this company of half-breeds under captain De St. George. So far from rebelling against the Dominion they rallied in its defence when rebellion reared its head.

Now there were great differences of opinion in the North-west as to the best way to settle this question of the Indian title. You have heard, I have no doubt, that the government had

received petitions from His Grace Archbishop Tache and the North-west council, and that the government turned deaf ears to these important authorities. There is no one more entitled to speak on the North-west than His Grace Archbishop Tache, who went there as a missionary carrying peace to its people and has labored there ever since with an earnestness and devotion that does him great credit. (Applause). But what was his recommendation? He recommended that we should set aside twelve reserves in the North-west territory, and place there these half-breeds, giving 160 acres to each and obliging them to remain there, and also that this land should be inalienable and untaxable, involving an entail, which I believe with all respect to his grace, would be a serious injury to the country and to these people. The government could not have accepted it. If it had accepted it, I venture to say, that we would have been attacked everywhere for having placed an entail on these twelve reserves. But what did the Northwest council propose? The very first resolution passed by the council was, that it would be inexpedient to set aside reserves for the half-breeds at all, so that we could not have accepted the recommendation of either without going directly counter to the other. The council recommended that these half-breeds should be given no negotiable scrip, but that they should get non-negotiable scrip for 160 acres and be obliged to settle there, and live there for three years and perform certain settlement duties and after they had done these things, they should live there for some years more. The effect of that would be to place the half-breeds, who had special claims, in a worse position than the white settlers. Any settler can pay his ten dollar fee select the land, live there, cultivate fifteen acres and then he is entitled to his patent, so that the proportion would if accepted result in placing the half-breeds in an inferior position. The government could not have accepted either of these proposals. The result of the scrip system had not been such as to justify repetition. It has been repeated it is true because there has not been any other reasonable way, but if there had been there is no doubt it would have been better to have adopted that other way. That delay complained of therefore occurred in consequence of a conflict between the recommendations of the best authorities on the Northwest in relation to this question.

Notwithstanding that, the government in 1883 appointed Mr. Lindsay Russell to go up to make inquiries into this matter. He was eminently fitted for the work, understanding as he did the Cree, French, and English languages and the government made up their minds that no fitter man could be appointed. Unfortunately, Mr. Russell fell and broke his leg and was confined to his house and luckily the accident was so serious that he has never been able to resume official life since then. In January, 1885, a resolution was adopted appointing a commission and we have the testimony of Father Ande that he had received information that a commission had been appointed to investigate these claims, the information being received

a fortnight before any overt act of rebellion of any kind took place. So that you will see that in relation to the scrip the policy of the government shows that they were anxious to settle the claims of these people. But it is said we refused to give them the surveys that they wanted. Mr. Laurier one of the leaders of the opposition made one of his best speeches in parliament in an effort to prove that he would have been justified in taking up his musket and shooting down the volunteers because we did not give these surveys. Now, but let me explain, the whole North-west territory is surveyed under authority of act of parliament on what is known as the "rectangular principle," that is to say by the square mile. The half-breeds of Manitoba who were there before the surveys commence claimed that the same system which prevails in the province of Quebec should be adopted here, so that they should get the river fronts, and have a narrow strip of land running back in some cases to three or four miles. The policy of the government in this respect has always been the same, and it is this: Wherever there have been settlers in advance of surveys the surveys should take place on the river principle, but where they came on the lands after the surveys were made, they should go on in just the same terms as other settlers, but we gave the half-breeds this other concession that when they did not get their lands in this way they should take them by what is called "legal sub-division." That instead of getting a square quarter section they should be enabled to divide the section into four parts, extending well back and having a river frontage. They had the opportunity of getting their land in that way had they chosen to do so and we find that in respect to concessions they had great advantages over the ordinary white settlers that went into that country, who were obliged to take the lands surveyed by the authority of the parliament of Canada.

A checker-board gives a perfect picture for illustration. It is called the rectangular system, the dark blocks being the odd sections, and the white blocks being the even sections. These half-breeds in Manitoba and the North-west where they happened to be living on the banks of rivers were anxious to obtain the river lot principle, giving an almost continuous frontage. But the policy of both governments was this, that where a surveyor found the land already occupied by half-breed squatters, living as they almost always did he should give them his survey on the river lot principle, if they desired it and that principle prevails there to a large extent. But where he went and where they came on the land after the survey was made where there was only one or two settlers he was to adopt the same principle as he adopted everywhere else. These people had gone on there, after surveys were made on the rectangular principle, the same as had been carried out everywhere, and they asked the government to send surveyors and change the whole system of surveys because they preferred the other system. Now that is the whole ground of their complaint.

The government declined to agree to it and rightly so, because if they did it for the half-breeds they could not refuse to do it for others, and it would mean that people could thereafter demand any kind of survey which they considered most serviceable. The government said we cannot agree to survey the land, but if you desire to get your patents upon the legal principle of subdivisions we will agree to it, that is to say, we would divide the section into four parallel lines running back into the whole section. That has been offered to them and has been open to them since and at this moment is being carried out in the district of St. Louis, and yet the government is accused of being recreant to its trust. Then it is said that we refused them their patents. Well, if there is one charge more than another that the government is not open to it is this very charge. In 1883, two years before the rebellion, the government sent Mr. Grauvrean, down into the district for the purpose of explaining to the people the necessity of making entries for the land in order that they might get their patents. In 1884, Mr. Duck, the agent for Albert went there and got Father Andre to transfer them in some instances. He states in his letter that he discovered that there were persons at work among the half-breeds to induce them not to make the entry in order to force the government to adopt the system of surveys. But the government did everything they could do to protect these people in the possession of and as they would not have been protected had they been originally without surveys and urged them to take every reasonable precaution to get their patents, and yet we are charged with refusing patents to them. Why only this year I received from some solicitors at Albert a petition from seventy-six half-breeds that they might have still another year as a concession. I gave them other privileges and I took the trouble to write not only to the solicitors but to each one of those whose name was on the petition, pointing out to them that white settlers who did not make entry within three months were liable to have the lands forfeited, and urging them to protect themselves and giving them the year they wanted. And finally we are told that we gave away their lands to the colonization company, but in answer to that we have only to say what I said on other platforms and in parliament, that I challenge any one to produce one single case of a settler in the Northwest territories who has been dispossessed of an acre of land upon which he has settled or to which he has had even a colorable claim. (Cheers). But you will say the rebellion did break out. How did it break out. Well, the story of the rebellion is one of the most extraordinary instances of the power of a bad man over a community. Louis Riel was sent for. (The name of Riel was received with cheers from one end of the building.) Do these gentlemen cheer the name of Riel? I can understand them cheering the names of their own leaders (laughter), but things have come to a pretty pass when the name of Louis Riel can elicit

cheers in an audience of this kind. (Loud applause.) I say he was sent for. What for? He was sent for, as appears by the testimony which some of them have since given, because they wanted a representative in the Northwest council, and they thought they could elect him there, and that his ability would be of some value to them. When he got there he had his old grudge against the government. He believed he had a claim against the government. As you know, by the testimony given at Regina, he was willing to sell out that claim for thirty-five thousand dollars, and that possibly he might have sold it for five thousand dollars. When he was asked—"What is to become of the claims of the half-breeds his answer was,— "The half-breeds,—that is me. Settle with me and you will hear nothing more, and I will leave the country." But what had he to do. He had first to turn these half-breeds against their clergy and missionaries, who had been their temporal as well as spiritual advisers. He had to appeal to the superstition of these poor people to turn them against their clergy, and when he had done that he then brought them under this new religion of his—and concerning all these things the sworn testimony of the people themselves will be submitted to parliament—he sent out scouts to tell them to come into the baptism into the new faith of his secretary Jackson and to bring their guns with them, in order to fire a salute. He then told them when they assembled, that the government were sending five hundred mounted police to devastate their territory, torture them, and drive them from the country, and under the influence of this new religion, he managed to bring about that collision at Duck Lake which was the first overt act and thus committed them to the rebellion. Am I right? Why, on that point I will read you from authority which every one will accept. I read from a sermon delivered by Bishop Grandin in the church of St. Roche. (The speaker here quoted remarks of Bishop Grandin, showing the attempt to spread the new religion and the imprisonment of four priests, six religious and some lay brothers, sentinels being placed at their doors to prevent intercourse). So that you will see that Riel with all the power he had over these people, so far from being able to induce them to rebel on account of claims, was obliged to turn them against their missionaries and commit cruelties against their missionaries and in that way provoke rebellion, which would result to his advantage by the government being compelled to accede to his wishes. It was a system of making blackmail out of the blood and homes, and happiness of our unfortunate people who had become his dupes, and the man who can stand upon any platform and palliate such a proceeding as that is unworthy of his position as a Canadian and deserves the execration of all fair-minded men. (Cheers and applause). Mr. Chairman, ladies, and gentlemen, I fear I have detained you too long. (Cries of go on). I feel deeply grateful to you for your kind attention. This enormous audience is evidence of the fact that

the people of Halifax feel a deep interest in the discussion of public questions, common to the whole Dominion. I earnestly hope that that condition of things may long last, and I sincerely believe that a fair consideration of the policy of the government and its conduct in the past, and of the manner in which it has managed public affairs, and its policy in the future will ensure for it that measure of support which the people of Canada have given to it on two occasions at general elections, and in by-elections since it has been in power.

I thank you again ladies and gentlemen for your kind attention. (Prolonged applause.)

The chairman said that this was the first occasion on which the people of Halifax had had the pleasure of hearing the Hon. Mr. White. He had now to call upon the Hon. Mr. Foster to address the meeting.

Hon. Mr. Foster

(who was received with applause) id, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen—If I had been of a nervous temperament or had had less experience than I have had, I should have been somewhat frightened as the course of events gradually drew what has been called the "variety combination" down to the great city of Halifax. I would naturally wonder, in the light of recent events, whether or not it would turn out that the people of the city of Halifax, if they came together at all to hear us, would evince the least particle of interest in hearing discussed questions concerning the Dominion of Canada and by Canadian ministers of the crown. I would wonder whether it would turn out that a people, advised diligently and persistently, if not ably, to give the ministers a wide berth would assemble at all to hear them, or whether they would take the advice of another opposition paper that it would be a wise and proper thing to break up the meeting and not hear the speakers at all. If I had had less experience, I might have been filled with fear and trembling, but the moment I came into this hall and looked upon this sea of intelligent faces, I would have known myself among an audience of Canadians who would listen to the discussion of public questions in a calm, fair and manly spirit. (Applause.) I have all faith in time to set right wrong judgments, to correct wrong impressions, to right things which are wrong, and to aid nature and the resources she has given in building up a great and a progressive country under Canadian skies and a Canadian flag. (Applause.) Within the past few weeks, or, I might say months, a new and more jubilant note has been added to the opposition evangel. This note has been one of hope and promise—of promise soon to be fulfilled—that the party constituting the opposition in the country to-day and who have been in that position so many weary years, treading its dark and furlor paths, were to be relieved. They saw a star in the East, or the West I will not say which, and

they were filled with gratitude and joy, and jubilation in the prospect of a near return to the comfortable benches of power and patronage. (Laughter.) When we ascertain the reason for this joy and jubilation, we find that its rests upon three things. Certain elections have taken place. One in a county known as Haldimand, in Ontario; another in Chambly, in Quebec; and a more general election recently in Quebec. These are the bases whence have sprung this joy and hope, this triumphant jubilation. It is well for the great conservative party, and it is well for the people of Canada to look at the bases of this hope for a moment and ask what these bases are, and see whether the foundations are solid or not. Haldimand has spoken! And it has been said by orators on public platforms in New Brunswick, within the past three weeks, and on other platforms throughout the Dominion, and it is a stock argument of the opposition press, that the vote in Haldimand indicates what will be the vote throughout Ontario. Why, bless you, Haldimand has been speaking ever since 1867. It then sent a liberal to parliament with a majority of 367. In 1872 it sent a liberal to parliament by acclamation. In 1874 it again returned a liberal by acclamation. In 1878 it returned a liberal to parliament by a majority of 168. In 1882 it returned another liberal by 126 majority. The other day it sent another liberal up with the largely increased majority of 115. Hence this jubilation. The Dutch have taken Holland—Haldimand has spoken, and the opposition say that they are coming back to rule. Give Haldimand two or three more trials and the opposition majority will become a minority, and another party will go up to rule. (Laughter and applause.) But, it is said, as Chambly speaks so will speak Quebec. The patriot who called upon his audience to listen to the voice of Chambly, or any other liberal, I do not fear to state, should be the last to throw up his cap and shout at the prospect of coming into power because of the issue which resulted in the selection of the candidate returned by Chambly. I have heard it claimed that the liberal party were a party of free traders, that so they were born and bred and grew up, and so would they die; and I have always been led to believe that if there was anything they hated worse than sin it was protection and the national policy, which they claimed to be demoralizing and ruinous and burdensome to the country, and that if they had their way they would tread it in the dust and elevate the standard of free trade. Would you believe it? The liberals are shouting themselves hoarse because Chambly has elected Mr. Prefontaine who avows himself to be an out and out protectionist. If there is one thing that the liberals claim more than another it is that they are the party of purity. They set their faces like flint against all sorts of corruption. They never bribe. They never make use of any sinister influences. They never get some persons out of office for the sake of putting some other persons in. Yet, will you believe it, the Montreal Witness a

paper which the St. John Telegraph, an authority upon all matters of doctrine in connection with the opposition, classes as a liberal paper—What did the Montreal Witness say? It said that Mr. Prefontaine who was elected president of the young liberals, was a very poor choice for a party that put forward purity as one of its principal planks. It said that Mr. Prefontaine at one time took a bribe of \$1,500 and that if the young liberals were true to their professions they would never take such a man to be their president. That is the man just elected in Chambly and the liberal party are shouting themselves hoarse over the event. Twenty-four English liberals recorded their votes in favor of the proposition that the government did right in letting the law take its course on that arch traitor, Louis Riel. It makes a man wonder what idea some people have of consistency when men, who stood up in parliament and voted in favor of the government on that issue, are the very men to be jubilant because Chambly has spoken. When Mr. Prefontaine asked for the votes of the electors of Chambly he did so on one issue. He presented himself to them as the instrument they should select to avenge themselves for the murder of Louis Riel on the hangmen at Ottawa. Mr. Davies and the party with which he is associated show their consistency when they glory in the victory of Chambly as the result of which Mr. Prefontaine was elected, for they are the very men who declared that the government did right in allowing the law to take its course. They are the men who said the law should be carried out, and who voted to sustain the government on that ground, and yet they rejoice at the election of a man whose only platform is to avenge the murder of Riel on the hangmen at Ottawa. Knowing this, what can the supporters of the party say other than that however much they love the party they are ashamed that it should climb into power over such an abnegation of all the principles which should govern a great party?

Well they say that a great liberal victory has been gained in Quebec. (Faint cheers.) I want you to cheer it. I would like to hear a great cheer from you. It is stated by papers here that a great liberal victory has been gained in Quebec. Liberal papers maintain that they always fight for principles. A great liberal victory was gained there, and therefore a great liberal principle must have underlain their victory. What was the principle? Let them explain themselves. What does that same Montreal Witness say, the day after the battle, when it was thought that the Quebec government was swept out of existence by that cry adopted by Mr. Mercier.

"As we predicted some time ago the opposition party has swept the province by means of the Riel cry. In every constituency, French and English, this has been the dominating cause."

L'Electeur said a few days before the election:

"Patriots in going to the polls remember the solemn oath you took on the 16th of November last, to avenge that bloody outrage

at Regina. It is the advance guard of the murderers with whom you are to deal on Tuesday."

That is the great liberal principle that has been enunciated. (cheers and laughter.) What said L'Etendard on the eve of the election.

"To-morrow every citizen is called on to perform a supreme duty—upon the vote will depend the future of our race. To the polls then and vote like Christians and soldiers."

What said La Patrie, the organ of that great liberal party, standing upon that great liberal issue in the city of Montreal. It says:

"On the 16th November our young Canadian nationality received the baptism of blood. It received it at the hands of the hangmen. Sir John A. Macdonald officiated as high priest. A French Canadian Metis, a noble man paid with his blood for the necessity of cementing the anti-French political party. Our escutcheon received a stain which only the tears of the province can wash out; but we will not be struck down, let us work, let us become strong, let us be Canadians."

The day after the battle when it thought it had the victory it broke out in these words

"The struggle is over and the province may breathe freely. It has lived under the sorry hangman regime, now we will have the national regime. The province of Quebec felt the blow it received on the 16th of November. What a revenge we have had."

Now gentlemen that is the issue which was put squarely to the electors in the province of Quebec, on that issue the battle was fought, and on such a bloody and unworthy issue as that the great liberal party are willing to take their stand and count that as a great liberal victory. They are welcome to all such victories. (Applause.) But I tell you my honest conviction is that like the prairie fires that sweep up and burn all before them, but in an hour their best has passed away, and out of the burnt earth comes forth sweet nutrition and abundance, so this prejudice may be taken advantage of an unscrupulous men for the moment, and they may snatch a seeming victory, but the reaction shall come, they shall reap but blackness and ashes while the freshness and glory of a better and nobler principle shall succeed. (Applause.) But some one may say "Ah, you are the incendiary yourself. You are coming down here before a Halifax audience, and you are raising the cry of race and religion, and trying to shield your government under this cry. (Cheers from one end of the building). Yes, cheer that,—I would like you to cheer it. (Laughter.) By these cheers you say that it is a bad thing to raise the cry of race and religion. (Applause.) It is a bad thing,—I agree with you. But who raised it first. I appeal to the average intelligence of the average man in this country if this is not true, that up to the 16th of November, that fatal day in November, and every day between the time that Riel was caught and put in prison, to that day, I ask you if this is not true without the shadow of a doubt that the whole liberal party in the Dominion of Canada trained every gun and opened every battery and brought every pound of its ammu-

dition—to do what? To open out in indignant remonstrance against a government which would let Riel go with his life. (Applause). Was it so or was it not? Let me take the testimony from the mouths of the party and the organs of the party, and I defy any man in this audience to pick out one single half dozen of those newspapers which did not work upon this plan in accordance with the samples from the journals I quote to you. Before the execution, when they thought that Sir John A. Macdonald would yield to the domination of the French and let Riel go, what did they say? “The verdict and the sentence in the Riel trial were the natural ones and if interference or delay in the carrying out of the righteous sentence be allowed it will demonstrate the extent of the Bleu influence over Sir John and the Dominion.”—From the St. Thomas Journal, a leading liberal paper in Ontario.

“If over a man deserved hanging it is Riel, and hanged he would most assuredly be did he not happen to be a French Catholic. Of that there is not a shadow of a doubt.”

That was stated in another liberal paper. And again:

“When a land is ruled by a man who to save himself from political death will go so far as to pardon an enemy of the state and a slaughterer of our young volunteers, then it is, time for that land and that country to consider to what depths such a prime minister can sink and how far he should be allowed to go.”

Where does that come from? The Nova Scotia, Pictou News. (Cheers and laughter).

“Sir John knows enough to keep himself in accord with the French element of Quebec, without which he now refuses to accede to the punishment of the arch-traitor. Verily civilization does away with justice.”

That is from an exponent of the liberal party in the North-west.

“Not to hang such a villain is unpardonable. The demand in Ontario is not a cry for vengeance, but a demand simply to let the law take its course on a notorious malefactor.”

That is from a grit paper in Ontario.

“It has come to a pretty pass indeed, when a red-handed rebel can thus snap his fingers at the law.”—[Port Hope Guide.

And here comes the journal of the Hon. David Mills, the philosopher friend and guide of the opposition party, (Laughter) through all its lonely wanderings in the outside wilderness, (Laughter.) Ever and anon in sight of the promised land but with no friendly hand extended. (Laughter.) Mr. Mills says,—

“The question still remains why should Quebec do for Riel what it never would do for the English, Irish or Scotch. Why should it overlook the murders of men and women, etc., etc.”

That, gentlemen, is a fair sample of the utterances of of the great liberal organs before the 16th of November, with all their batteries unmasked ready to belch forth against the government which would not follow their views on the morrow. They

waked up on the morning following, rubbed their eyes and thereafter found no word too hot against the government which hanged a poor inoffensive half-mad fellow out on the North-west. (Cheers and laughter). Yes, sir, there is the great liberal plank, and to-day having failed in all positive principle and policy and having failed in all negative criticism, they clasp the Regina scaffold and hand over hand hope to climb into power by that unworthy means. (Applause). I say to you all that if I were a liberal in name, as I am in fact, I would prove my liberalism by standing out from that shaky bog upon the solid principle that there should be common law and equal justice for every man in this country of whatever creed, race or nationality. (Loud applause).

But, sir, after having left this subject let me invite your attention to what ought to be the true source of your criticism upon the political parties of this country.

The people composing this audience have too intelligent countenances to be led away by mere catch cries. One says, “he is a liberal, I will fight him,” and another, “he is a tory, I will fight him,” but the man who goes by mere catch cries is 100 years behind the times. Victories are won and battles are fought, and the causes at issue are laid away in the cemeteries of nations. To-day we divide on tariff principles, and the methods of administration of the government. These issues are what intelligent people decide upon, and they vote for the man or the party which presents the best principles for their acceptance. If we are to judge intelligently, so as to give our votes between the two great parties, which at present exist in the Dominion, we can find no better test than this, not to judge a tree by the color of its leaves or the size of its limbs, but by the fruit it bears. So I ask you to scan the records of the two parties since confederation, and support the party which presents the best record. What is the record of the liberal-conservative party? Its very birth rose out of the confederation of the provinces, and to-day we would have had no union if it had not been for the idea of confederation which was carried into effect by its leaders. That is one thing you may put down to the record of the party. Previously the provinces were disappointed with different tariffs and not united with any oneness of aim or community of purpose. The liberal-conservative leaders conceived the idea of uniting them and of building up a country with a common policy, a common sentiment and a common citizenship. After the provinces were united in name there remained the greater work of uniting them in fact, as they were united on paper, and I am prepared to affirm the statement that if you examine the record of the liberal-conservative party you will not find an instant during which it has wavered in its purpose for the consolidation and unification of the different parts of the Dominion. There is no repeal party among the liberal-conservatives. (Applause). There are no men, no privy councillors among the liberal-conservative party forgetful of their oaths of office, who will stand up and say

that if they had been on the banks of the Saskatchewan, they would have shot down the volunteers who went there for the purpose of preserving the integrity of the Dominion. Their record is as clear as the sunlight. Lying far apart from each other how could the provinces be joined, but by having veins and arteries supplied, great lines of communication by water and rail. I challenge contradiction of the assertion, that the record of the conservative party has been wholly and persistently in favor of building these channels of communication and the development to the greatest extent of different parts of the Dominion. The railway policy which has been adverted to to-night which has resulted in the building of the Canada Pacific railway, as well as local railways connected with it, attests that. The building of the Intercolonial railway attests that. You say that Mr. Mackenzie built part of it. Yes, but when you get a liberal orator on the floor of the house and tax him with the increase of debt he will say "true there was an increase in the debt, but you prepared the plans and we are not to be found fault with for it." This explanation exonerates them from the accusation that there was any time in their history when they proposed to do any great work. (Laughter.) The liberal-conservative party have made permanent the tariff policy of the country. They have made it so strong that to-day when a liberal orator gets up and speaks of tariff reform he avers his hatred of protection and his belief in free trade, but he concludes by saying "we cannot give you free trade if we get in." If asked why, his reply is that the government have to raise a large revenue, as if a free trade country could not raise a large revenue: as if Great Britain did not raise \$11.89 for every head of population, while we raise only \$6.89. This is the hypocritical garb under which the liberal orators seek to escape the logic of argument. If they wish to make this a free trade country they can have an income tax; they can impose taxes on the house a man owns, or on the tea he drinks, while we give him his tea free. If these men were as honest in their opinions as they are loud in the expression of them, they would not only say they believe in free trade, but they would carry it out. So much for the record of the liberal conservative party. Now view for a moment the record of the liberal party, and first their record from 1873 to 1878. They went into power with a majority of 60 to 70, and they came out with a minority. Did the people of the Dominion judge wrongly, or were there faults to be found with the administration which, having been exiled from power for 20 years, was promptly given another period of exile. They came into power with a surplus of \$1,638,822. They went out with a deficit of \$1,900,000. They came in with a revenue of \$24,000,000, and they reduced it to \$22,500,000. They came in with a trade amounting to \$217,500,000 and the trade of the country went down to \$153,400,000. There was an adverse balance of trade against the country every year of \$21,000,000 which since dropped to \$16,000,000. If any man in this audience can put his

finger upon a single great act for the advancement of the country passed and put into operation by the Mackenzie government from 1874 to 1879, I would like him to mention it. Just try and hunt it up and you will have a longer search than the woman in the New Testament had for the lost piece of silver. What has been the result since the present government came into power? The revenue has increased from \$24,000,000 to \$32,000,000. The trade has grown from \$153,000,000 to \$199,000,000. We have reduced the adverse yearly balance of trade from \$21,000,000 to \$16,000,000. The business failures which averaged \$26,000,000 have decreased to \$11,000,000. The post office savings bank deposits, which fell off to the extent of \$463,000, have increased \$12,336,656. Contrast these records and say whether it is not true, that the liberal-conservative party has these points which should commend it to the people. It started with a faith in the future of the country which has never wavered. It was willing to lay itself out by tempting the future, to make progress a certainty. But more than faith is required of statesmen. They need, beside, the ability to plan. Look at the plans and policy of the liberal-conservative government for the establishment of industries and the extension of trade, and I ask whether this ability to plan has not been a characteristic of the government. It has also had the boldness to execute its plans. With faith in the future of the country, with the ability to plan for the development of that future and the boldness to execute and carry out the plans so formed the government has built up a record upon which it confidently appeals to the people of Canada.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is poor policy when an army have been struggling so long in battle and at last have crowned their efforts with success, and have taken the citadel, to immediately invite their enemies to take their place and to tell their army to go outside. No, if these men making up the liberal conservative party have established these works and policies, and carried them out successfully, while you have enjoyed the fruits of that success, do not make the mistake of putting in power other men than those who have sympathies with those plans and policies, and who will keep them sacred for you and for your children. (Applause.) But it might be said,—yes, but you have piled up an enormous debt on this country.

Now, just five minutes on that question. I want to ask how much is that debt: The Morning Chronicle and Recorder would probably say: The debt of the Dominion is \$300,000,000. Some of them are wiser than others, and they will say it is nearly \$300,000,000, so that if you catch them in the exact amount they will have some little ground to save themselves. I am here to state that the gross debt is not anywhere near three hundred millions of dollars, and that on the 1st day of July, 1885, the gross debt of the Dominion of Canada was in round figures \$264,000,000. Now there

a wide difference between the amounts, and you would think so if the difference went into your pockets (laughter); and you would think so all the more if it had to come out of your pockets. (Renewed laughter.) There is no need of giving your country a worse name than it should have properly—there is no honest patriotism in endeavoring to overload the country with an imaginary debt, because it does not help it outside. The gross debt was \$264,000,000 in July, 1885. I see some one in the audience smiling as if to say "Yes, but that is a year ago. You have been piling it up since then." But I say that on the 30th day of September, 1886, the gross debt was greater than it was in July, 1885, by no more than \$100,000, that is to say, to-day in round numbers the gross debt is \$264,000,000. But that is not half the truth. When you want to find the financial standing of a man you would not say that he owes so much and that he is therefore in a bad way, but you would say he owes so much, and he owns so much, and the balance would show his position. Now be as honest with the country as you would be with the man (cheers.). Find out how much the assets of the country are, and you will find that on the 1st of July, 1885, the assets were \$68,000,000 in round numbers. "Yes," said a gentleman in controversy with me on the subject, "but what are these assets worth? There is the Intercolonial railway—that is one of them; try and sell it. There are your canals,—take them and auction them off." He led people to believe that that was what was meant when we talked about assets. It is not. These are permanent assets, but the \$68,000,000 do not include any of the public works of Canada. Oh, but you may say these \$68,000,000 do not bring anything in. Don't they? Don't you wish you had all they brought in? (Laughter.) In 1885 the assets of the Dominion of Canada brought in \$3.92 for every hundred dollars of them, while for every hundred dollars of our public debt we pay \$3.80. That is to say, the assets are worth more dollar for dollar than each dollar of the public debt, and in 1885 two and one half millions of dollars of interest accrued upon our assets.

Now do the next thing and from that gross debt subtract our available assets, \$68,000,000 from the \$264,000,000, and you have remaining \$196,000,000,—a long way from even *nearly* \$300,000,000. But if you go away with the idea that the \$196,000,000 has been rolled up by the dominion government, you are wrong. For of that \$196,000,000 the sum of \$106,000,000 was owing or would to-day be owing by the provinces, and is simply taken from the provinces and handed at a less rate of interest. (Applause.) So that if you subtract \$106,000,000 from \$196,000,000 you get the real debt rolled up for the actual purposes of the Dominion—\$90,000,000. And if you know that the Intercolonial railway cost us \$30,000,000, the Canada Pacific railway some \$57,000,000 and the canal system \$30,000,000,—I need not refer to the other public works all over this Dominion which are used for the

development of its resources, the carriage of its trade and the building up of this country, do you think that all this is not worth the \$90,000,000 that have been rolled up? Now I have said this much and I want to say one thing more. You hear every day some one saying:—"Oh, this country—it is being crushed down by a load of taxation—the vitality is being crushed out of it by this burden of debt piled up by these liberal-conservatives," and the complaining ones try to persuade people that they are actually breaking their bones by carrying this load. Now, what is the burden of debt? It is the interest that you have to pay to carry it. We do not pay the \$300,000,000 or the \$196,000,000. We do not pay all that principal. If a man owes a debt of \$500 in three years at five per cent, he must pay the interest for three years, and then the principal, but a country is not so situated. All a country has to do is to keep its credit good, and when that loan matures put out a new loan at a less rate of interest. All that you have to think about is the interest that you have to pay for carrying the debt. In 1879, Mr. Mackenzie went out of power, and then, of course, there was no debt crushing down upon your shoulders! Take the number of people living in Canada in 1879 and divide that number into the interest on the debt and you will find that the burden was exactly \$1.59 per head of the population. Then the conservative government came in, and the debt was piled up and piled up, and we take the amount of interest paid in 1885 and divide by the number of people living in Canada and you will find that the interest burden is exactly \$1.59,—the same as it was in 1879, and not one cent more (applause.) Now that is either true or not true. If it is not true let somebody disprove it. But I state on the authority of the public accounts, on the authority of the finance minister, on my own responsibility, that to-day the burden of interest is exactly the same, calculated in that way, as it was in 1879—and not one cent greater. Now that disposes of that bubble. I have been referred to as a bubble also (laughter) and you can float the two together. I think I know which will be the least palatable to some of our friends. But I must conclude, (cries of "go on.") An honest man would say, "well you have got the better of me on that debt question, but one cannot deny that while we spent \$11,000,000 in 1868, we now spend \$31,000,000 in 1885. I do not deny it, I would be sorry to belong to a party which held on to power through the argument that from 1868 to 1885, with all this country and its resources, there had been no increase in the expenditure of the country year by year. For what would that prove? A party that was stationary, erecting no public works, no waterways through canals or rivers, increasing nothing for the service of the country,—that would be a party which could show you a stationary expenditure, and a stationary or decreasing country, as well as a stationary expenditure. Does not every man know that progress is realized only in proportion, as greater expenditures are made? If a man will live in an uncivilized

state, he need not employ a tailor and does not need to be particular as to what he wears. But if he coires to civilization he must pay tailors' bills. (Cheers and laughter.) If a town wants a sanitary system, and other necessary service, it can only agree to have these things in proportion as it has increased expenditure. Think of your educational institutions,—if you will have colleges and put your boys and girls in them you must put your hands in your pockets and increase your expenses. And it is exactly so with a country. The Dominion of Canada, commencing with few public works now boasts of public works that are the pride of every true Canadian and the admiration of all countries. (Applause.) It would be a standing disgrace to a political party to remain stationary and not undertake public works in order to make the empty idle boast that it had kept at a stationary figure the public expenditure. (Applause.) Look at the extent of sea coast, the multiplying services of the country, the development of its resources and compare the expenditures, and I leave it to honest, fair-minded men whether they will condemn the government because it has increased the expenditure. To be fair, you must come down to particulars, and show what expenditures could have been avoided while the country would still have been as well off; but the opposition simply hold out the fact that the expenditures have increased, and argue that, therefore, the government has been extravagant. So much then in reference to expenditures. I intended to refer to the question of reciprocity, but my colleague has dealt with that subject so fully and so fairly and honestly that all I have to say is that I endorse his sentiments and believe them to be entirely true. The difference between the liberal party, under Mr. Mackenzie, and the liberal-conservative party is this, that the liberal party tried to get reciprocity and, having failed, folded their arms and made no effort to build up the industries of our own country, so as to gain some compensation within our own borders; whereas the liberal-conservative party, having tried and failed to get reciprocity, determined to turn their attention to our own country, and to devise a policy for this Canada of ours which would develop inter-provincial trade and build up lines of communication, so that wealth might accumulate. That is the difference between the liberal and the liberal-conservative parties, and it redounds to the everlasting credit of the liberal-conservatives.

I had intended to speak of the fishery question. The great heritage of the fisheries we are inclined sometimes to think is not thought much of in the West. I can dissipate that opinion. From conversations with people even as far west as British Columbia, I am in a position to say that throughout Canada but one sentiment prevails in the minds and breasts of every one except annexationists like the editor of the St. John Globe, viz.: that the fisheries are our natural and rightful heritage. If the United States, in a friendly way will, treat with us and come to such an arrangement as will be of advantage to both

sides, we are willing as cousins, separated by an imaginary line, to enter into an arrangement with them; but if they wish to take everything and give nothing in return, Canada stands on the treaty of 1818, (loud cheers). It has been stated by papers on the opposition side, and I would be the last to impugn their veracity, that orders have been given that the cruisers should not enforce the treaty rights of our fishermen against those of the United States. I appeal to you and to the consul-general of the United States who sits near me, whether the cruisers have not been a little of a bother to the United States fishermen. But what I want to say is this that the statements I have referred to are unreliable and untrue. The orders given to the cruisers were to carry out the provisions of the treaty of 1818, according to our laws and powers and no important variation of those instructions has ever since been issued. The cruisers have been on their beats, and they have protected the fishing grounds, considering the extent of the coast, as well as possible, and I have to say that if the same state of affairs exists next year the government of Canada, supported by the government of Great Britain, will put on more cruisers if necessary.

In conclusion, I thank you kindly for the magnificent reception you have given to members of the government coming to you from a distance, and also to your own honored member from this province. I only want to say one word more and that will be in the shape of an appeal to the young men in this audience, and, through them, to the young men of the Dominion of Canada. Young men full of hope and who like to look out with faith in the promises of the future, young men who believe in growth and progress and not in the disintegration of this country of ours, which has come up like a young giant, and has grown in strength to the admiration of the whole world,—I appeal to such young men when rebellion is apologized for and championed, when scandal is made the gospel by which it is sought to bring an influence to bear on the people which will oust from office the party now in power, and when annexationists hoist their colors and ask you to come under them; when such things occur I ask you to get up on the heights of faith and progress, and rally around the flag upon which is inscribed loyalty to the Dominion and the integrity of the great British Empire the world over.

Mr. M. B. Daly, M. P.

said that the members of the conservative party in Halifax owed the visitors who had addressed them this evening, a debt of gratitude for the manner in which they had presented the platform of the party. Those in the audience who had supported Mr. Stairs and himself in the representation of the city would feel not only that the speakers had done credit to their representatives, but that they had vindicated the action of the majority of the electors in returning Mr. Stairs and himself. With these remarks he begged to express the thanks which he as a representa

tive of the people of Halifax, and of the conservative party felt to be due to the dominion members who had addressed the meeting this evening.

Mr. J. F. Stairs, M. P.,

desired simply to repeat what had been said by his colleague in tendering thanks to the speakers of the evening for the honor and pleasure they had conferred upon the people of Halifax and their representatives. He was sure that no one, liberal or conservative, had failed to be pleased with the addresses delivered. He trusted that all present would consider the record of the government as presented to them so that, when the proper time came

they would be able to accord the government a fair and impartial judgment. There was much more that might be said on behalf of the government and he hoped that Mr. Daily and himself would shortly, though in a much less forcible manner, have an opportunity of meeting the electors and advocating their own cause.

The chairman then put the vote of thanks which was carried unanimously.

In closing he congratulated the citizens on the character of the meeting and the good order preserved. The meeting closed with three rousing cheers for the queen and three more for the chairman.

SPEECH OF HON. MR. THOMPSON AT ST. JOHN.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I am exceedingly obliged to you for the cordial way in which you have received the mention of my name by the chairman, and I cannot help thinking that in some respects a cordial reception at the hands of the people in St. John is one that I had not a full right to expect.

It is true that in my own province we have always been taught to believe that the people of the province of New Brunswick were more nearly related to us than the people of any of the other provinces of Canada. We looked upon them as our cousins before the union of the provinces took place at all, and we have been taught to believe since, by every episode in public affairs, that our interests lie side by side with theirs, and that we are in every respect people of a common country, whatever differences may divide us from the people of the provinces in the west. But, sir, when I recently visited places in the province of Ontario, as has been intimated to you by the Hon. Mr. White, and when I took part there on several occasions in the discussion of public affairs, I have been repeatedly told by the opposition press that this Nova Scotian ought not to have been at large at all—that his country had gone out of the union, that his country had declared that Nova Scotia is the place for Nova Scotians, and that the Nova Scotian ministers ought to be sent home by the first and fastest train. (Laughter.)

Well, I had hardly crossed over the border line between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick when I was gratified by receiving a paper published in your city by which any alarm that I might have had was entirely dispelled. I found in a recent issue of the *St. John Globe* the report of an interview which took place with my friend, the premier of the local government, who has the repeal question in charge and the repeal contract on hand—(laughter) and I was glad to be able to note that notwithstanding in the month of June we were all supposed to have shaken

hands with you and bidden you good-bye forever, and had got rid of the iron heel of despotism which was supposed to be upon our necks since confederation; that notwithstanding all that, repeal has been put off and I can still go at large. We were led to suppose in Nova Scotia when the local elections took place, notwithstanding that the local elections had nothing to do with federal questions, notwithstanding that the local government had nothing to do with the question of confederation, notwithstanding that the local government were accepting office under the constitution and not against the constitution—we were led to believe in Nova Scotia that some great demonstration in favor of disruption of the union would take place immediately—some demonstration in which the British government would be called to interfere, and that Nova Scotia, sailing out of the union and standing alone, would enter into a treaty with the United States—prices would go up and money flow in and everything go merrily and happily. But what will be the feeling of surprise among our people when they read what Premier Fielding has stated in that interview. He says: "Before we raise the question of separation for Nova Scotia alone, we must endeavor to secure the co-operation of New Brunswick and P. E. Island." We thought he had raised the question and had asked the people to vote on it on the 15th of June. We were told we would be happier than before when we stood alone, and now it appears we are to induce you and Prince Edward Island to come out too. Mr. Fielding goes on to say, "This of course will take time." Of course it will, and probably a good deal of time too. And the statement is made a little further on that the public men in New Brunswick and P. E. I. are altogether too timid on this question. That appears from the circumstance that when the invitation was given to New Brunswick and P. E. Island to join in the repeal agitation, the liberals of the two provinces politely declined. Mr.

Fielding goes on to say: "The public men there are timid on the question, but I do not believe that as a rule they are hostile. They are naturally and properly cautious, and do not like to hastily commit themselves to so important a step as the advocacy of repeal. But if, as I believe, the people are for repeal, public men will have to follow or make way for others who will correctly represent public opinion." So we are still lingering on the borders of this confederation—we are still your neighbors, and we intend to remain so. It appears that we are to remain then until Mr. Fielding can re-organize your public men or remove from their places the leaders of his own party in these two provinces. As long as I am permitted to be still with you and still a fellow-countryman, as I avow, I hope to be for many years to come—(applause)—while I have that opportunity, I feel it incumbent upon me to avail myself of the invitation of the liberal-conservative association here to come with my colleagues before you and give an account of the trust reposed in us as members of the government of Canada.

It has been correctly stated in the press that we have a duty to perform here, that grave complaints have been made against the government of Canada and that in appearing before you to-night we are to some extent upon our trial. I have no objection whatever as one member of the government to meet fully any of the charges which have been brought against us for maladministration, and I intend to take up some of those charges in detail and to show that they are utterly baseless and groundless!

One of the most prominent charges made is that the government has been extravagant in relation to the civil service, and statements have been recently made in the press here and in other parts of the provinces to the effect that in regard to superannuation of the public servants we have wilfully abused the powers which parliament conferred upon us for the purpose of bestowing pensions upon favorites and for the purpose of dispensing with the services of men who were able to continue the discharge of their public duties, and that these individuals have drawn enormous amounts from the public treasury. It is proper I should discuss it before you, for this reason especially, that while the leader of the opposition had been attacking us year after year and from meeting to meeting and appealing to the people on the platform of his own province on the question of the day, almost the only statement of policy which he has thrown out is that he would, if placed in power, introduce a radical change as regards the superannuation of public servants. It is somewhat remarkable, and I must mention here at the outset, that during the five years when he had an opportunity of doing so, when he was backed by a majority of 70 or 80 in the house of commons, he did not introduce this measure of reform and that he has not proposed it to parliament since. (Cheers.)

He charges that we have abused the system of superannuation and that we have extravagantly administered that branch of the public service. One of the principal liberal organs of this country came out with the statement that public officials have received enormous

sums of money from this service, and that statement was repeated in the press of this city. Soon afterwards particulars were given in a detailed statement which shows that a number of persons who are named have drawn out of the public treasury \$331,859, while they have contributed to the superannuation fund less than \$10,000. Now, sir, in connection with that charge of abuse of the superannuation fund, I have to say that of the individuals who have drawn that \$331,000 the officers who were superannuated by Messrs. Blake and Mackenzie drew \$155,500 of that money. (Applause.) So that while through the press we are called upon to meet the statement that we have enabled a few individuals to draw \$331,000, we are able to show that more than half that expenditure resulted from the five years rule of our opponents, while the other half is to be placed to the account of upwards of ten years of Liberal-Conservative rule. (Applause.)

Let us take up another item of the civil service. It has been stated that we have been guilty of extravagances in adding to the number of public servants, and that when Mr. Mackenzie went out of office in 1878 there were but 480 civil-servants, there were in 1885, 1,180. In other words, that means that we have increased by nearly seven hundred the staff of the civil servants. Now, what will you think when I tell you that in order to make that comparison our friends of the opposition press have taken for the year 1878 simply the regular civil service staff, while they have taken for the year 1885, not only the regular staff but every man in the employ of the government—engineers, foremen of works and the like—in order to make an unfavorable comparison between the years. If you take, however, the list of the regular organized staff of the civil service in 1885 and compare it with the staff 1878, you will find that the charge against us is exaggerated to the extent of 555 persons. (Applause.) Or in other words, that there were 478 connected with the staff in 1878, 480 in 1879 and in 1885 there is not the increase they say of 700, but less than 150, to perform all the largely increased duties which the development of our public service and its extension from the one end of Canada to the other has thrown upon the staff.

Let me take up for a few moments a statement which has been made very frequently, that we have increased the burdens of the people by the extravagance of our management and that we have increased enormously the debt of this country. I admit that we have increased the liabilities of Canada. But, sir, let me ask you if when these provinces were confederated any one of the four would have been willing to enter the union if they had understood that the public works would not be extended, no new works developed, nor commerce developed, nor our fisheries protected?

Why, sir, our people knew it was impossible to go on without increasing the debt. For more than a quarter of a century we had the best men in these two provinces struggling in vain to complete the I. C. Railway; and one of the pledges made by our brethren in the western provinces was that this great

work should be completed for the development of our commerce, and soon after confederation was entered into that task was accomplished. That necessitated an increased expenditure in the public service and the net debt, which is to-day \$196,000,000, has increased \$120,000,000 since the union was consummated.

To what extent are we responsible for that? Our opponents were in power five years, and in this five years they increased the public debt of Canada \$40,000,000; they increased it by a larger sum than that, but to keep my argument clear I shall speak of round numbers, and we increased it some \$80,000,000. This shows that the yearly increase of debt under them was \$8,000,000, while under the present administration the rate of increase was but some \$5,500,000 a year. But let me call your attention to one of the circumstances that our opponents leave out of sight altogether in making this charge against us, and that is that in increasing the indebtedness of Canada by \$80,000,000, we have taken \$27,500,000 from the provinces and have transferred that sum to the liabilities of Canada, so that instead of expending that \$27,500,000 we have simply transferred from one side to the other a debt already existing and which had to be met by the very same people.

If we take that \$27,500,000 from the \$80,000,000 we find we have increased the debt in upwards of fourteen years but \$52,500,000 or \$3,500,000 per year as against \$8,000,000 a year, the amount of increase by the Mackenzie government. (Applause.)

Now let us consider for a few moments what we have to show as against that increase in the public debt of Canada. We have in the first place relieved the province to the extent of \$27,500,000 over and above the debts with which they entered into confederation, and we have public works which represent \$35,000,000 more than is represented by the entire increase in the public debt. (Applause.)

We have a statement made by Sir Richard Cartwright in 1875, that the whole debt as it then stood had been incurred for legitimate business of public utility. Surely that is a witness who is worthy of being cited by us against the claims of his party now. If it is true that the public debt as he spoke of it in 1875 represented public works of great utility, it is doubly true now, for over \$2 has been expended now for every \$1 of the increase since then.

Let me now ask you to consider how this burden falls upon the people?

The greater part of the increase has been since 1879—because the principal portion has been in connection with the C. P. R. and the North-west, and a large part of the increased allowances to the provinces has taken place since 1879. Then, sir, bearing the fact in mind that the debt has been more largely increased since 1879, the burden which falls upon the people of Canada by reason of the payments of the interest has not increased one cent per head above what it was in 1879.

The fact is that this debt was incurred for works of public utility, that the credit of Canada has risen with the progress of

Canada, that we have been able to negotiate loans and borrow money at lower rates and under better conditions than that to-day the people of Canada pay but \$1.50 per head for interest on the public debt, just as we were paying in 1879, (applause.) The fact that the credit of Canada is better to-day by far than it was in 1879, notwithstanding the increased burdens that have devolved upon us, must be a matter of gratification to us all. (Applause.) Look at the matter in another view. In 1879 it would have taken six years and three months revenue of the Dominion to have extinguished the public debt as then existing. To-day, notwithstanding the increase and by virtue of the fact that our prosperity has increased, that our commerce has increased and that we have consequently an increased revenue, less than six years revenue is sufficient to extinguish the debt. (Applause.) So measured in that way, we would be able to pay it to-day more quickly than we could have done in 1879, (Applause.)

We were told that we ought to be condemned because we have increased the expenditure of the country. I avow we have done so and I claim that the increase was called for. Let me take in this connection the statement made on one of the platforms by the premier of Nova Scotia. He stated that Sir Leonard Tilley had declared before confederation that \$2.75 per head ought to be amply sufficient to conduct the affairs of this Dominion for the next twenty-five years, and that notwithstanding only a few years had elapsed, the expenditure had gone up to \$8, but he added, that the increase is due to Tory extravagance. Now inasmuch as over one dollar per head of the increase was incurred during the Mackenzie regime from 1873 to 1878, can it be said that the increase is wholly due to the party now in power? Can any man with reason say that the government is culpable for having increased the public expenditure when we consider what the growth and expansion of the country from the one end to the other has been since that time?

In 1867 this country spread over an expanse of 467 square miles, while to-day its territory comprises 3,500,000 square miles. (Loud applause.) The confederation of Canada in 1867 contained a population of 3,000,000 people, while to-day Canada stands with over 5,000,000. In 1867 the revenue of the united provinces was \$13,000,000, and to-day we have a revenue of \$32,000,000. In 1867 the foreign commerce of Canada was \$131,000,000, to-day it has reached \$400,000,000. Take the postal service. That is one immediately connected with everyone in the country. We have had since 1877, 3,500 new post offices, and we are carrying 64,000,000 more letters and post cards than we did in 1867. Our mail carriages are traversing eleven million miles more of the roadway than they did in 1867. We send through the post office 54,000,000 more newspapers than they did in 1867, yet our friends of the opposition tell us that we are exceeding culpable because we do not carry on public affairs at the rate of expenditure per head of 1867. I should like you, when these people come before you accusing us of increasing the expenditure, to ask them, do you propose to go back to the

expenditure for public services which satisfied this country in 1867?"

We have been increasing the number of lighthouses giving protection and bounties to the fisheries, and it is impossible that this could all be done if we go back to the expenditure of 1867. Now the fact is that instead of the burden of the people being \$4.50 per head of the population it is only \$5.40. Let us consider what the increase has been. Why, in this great expanse of territory, with its great public services extending in every direction—in 1878, when our friends took office, the burden upon the people was \$4.37 per head, and it is only \$5.40 now. Therefore, for the great advance Canada has made in the increase of her commerce, and the gigantic development of her public works, which have elicited the attention of the world, the increased burden since we took office in 1878, is but \$1.03 per head and that is not making any allowance for the money we have sent to the provincial treasuries to relieve the provinces of the burdens which fell upon them. (Applause.) Now as another test, let me call your attention to the way in which the burdens have been imposed by the present government, because if we have made them bear hard upon the people, we ought to be condemned. The finance minister made the statement, which has not been challenged, although listened to by the ablest critics, that we have since our accession to office in 1878 increased the revenue by taxation on that class of goods which can most easily pay the increased burdens, and that we have not increased the burdens upon the working people by placing duties upon those staples which enter into their living expenses. On silks and velvets we have raised \$180,000, on spirits and wines \$642,000, on jewellery \$156,000, and if you omit these articles of luxury we have only increased the tariff by about three-quarters of one per cent. (Applause.)

Dr. Hutchinson—What about coal and flour?

Hon. Mr. Thompson—The coal and flour tax do not increase the burdens of the people. The coal used here is chiefly from Nova Scotia and does not pay duty, and the American is decreased in price in consequence of the competition caused by Nova Scotia coal. The price of flour is not as much to-day as it was before the flour duties were imposed and does not increase the burdens of the people of Canada one cent per head. I can assure you, however, the policy which placed the duty on American coal has given employment to thousands of operatives in the Province of Nova Scotia—(applause)—has enabled thousands of my fellow countrymen to earn their bread in their own country by the labour of their own hands which they could not do under the rule of Mr. Mackenzie. I am able to tell him also as the people Ontario will tell you that even where the Nova Scotia coal cannot be carried in consequence of the difficulty of freighting, and the American coal comes in, the American coal is lower in price now than it was before, because Nova Scotia coal will take its place if the price is increased.

Now, sir, I have said so much upon financial questions and the hour is so late—(Cries of "go on, go on") but having answered these charges made unfairly against the administration of the day, I proceed in closing to call your attention to one other point. We are accused of attempting to get a verdict from the people of Canada simply because we have done our duty in executing a great criminal in the Northwest—the statement is untrue. You have heard to-day on your own platform the account the Hon. Minister of the Interior has rendered to you of our defence in respect to the trouble in the Northwest. You have heard also the Hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries justify his management of his department. We are ready in like manner in every place to defend the conduct of the government upon every question and it is utterly untrue that we wish to catch the vote and retain public confidence because we have executed a criminal, but let me call the attention of the people of this and the neighboring province and especially the liberals to the policy presented by the opposition to-day. Let me call your attention to the fact that while we do not claim your verdict on any such ground, the party opposed to us are endeavouring to make political capital out of the fact that we performed our duty in carrying the law into execution. (Applause.) At the time when Reil was elected to parliament, and when he was expelled therefrom, his conduct was necessarily brought to the notice of the house of commons by the persons who claimed he was not fit to represent any portion of the Canadian people, and then the Hon. Edward Blake cheered to the echo in the house the statement that he (Reil) ought not to be allowed to take his seat in the house of commons of Canada because he had committed "a foul and damnable murder." Years passed by sir, and when Reil had committed a greater offence, this same gentleman turns around and says it is only a political offence, that he was a harmless lunatic, and should not suffer the penalty of the law.

He got into power in Ontario by denouncing Reil's crime as foul and damnable, yet when the same crime has been repeated, attended by circumstances of a character ten fold more atrocious. He attempts to get into power by declaring that we are to be censured for executing a lunatic. I see by the report of his speech that he puts his argument on the ground that a person who has been twice in lunatic asylums must be always regarded as of doubtful sanity. But, sir, what was the statement of the gentlemen in whose charge he had been on those occasions? It was that he had simply taken refuge there for the purpose of avoiding retributive justice and the effects of indignation at his atrocious conduct. To prove that those officials were not duped, I will read the certificate of one of the medical men in charge, certificates which Mr. Blake has carefully omitted to read, but the truth of which he never attempted to contradict. Here is the certificate.

"I the undersigned physician of the asylum of St. Jean de Dieu, certify that a few days after the entrance of Louis Riel into the

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1886

asylum I perceived that with him insanity was simulated. The exaggeration of his acts was such, and so much beyond what we generally remark in subjects afflicted with real insanity that with a physician accustomed to treat such cases there would be no room for doubt. Upon making the observation to him that I was not to be taken for his dupe he confessed to me in effect that he was shamming insanity, and the evidence that I was right in my surmise and that his confession was really sincere, is that on all occasions, and they were many, I have been alone conversing with him, he has always talked in a manner absolutely lucid and sane upon all and every subject with which he has entertained me.

(Sgd.) F. X. PERRAULT, M. D.,
Asylum of Longe Pointe.

Is it fair when these certificates were read in parliament and never answered they should not have been referred to in the speeches in which Mr. Blake argues the insanity of that criminal and his irresponsibility? But the electors of Quebec are asked to vote—not that Riel was a harmless lunatic, but that he was a murdered patriot, and they are so asked by the allies of Mr. Blake, who declared that Riel had committed a foul and damnable murder. Hon. Mr. Foster read to you a few moments ago, some utterances of the opposition press. But the responsibility of the opposition does not depend on the utterances of their press alone. We know that when the election came on in Chambly, the lieutenant of Mr. Blake, I refer now to Mr. Laurier, who is the spokesman of Mr. Blake in the Province of Quebec—stood on the platform, and reiterated the statement that if he had had the opportunity he would have been glad to have been found shouldering his rifle to assist the rebels on the banks of the Saskatchewan.

We had Mr. Blake standing up in Parliament and saying that the snows of the North-west were dyed with the blood of one of his kinsmen, and we have the man who sits close by his side appealing to the people of Quebec, asking them to place him in power, while he says he would have shot down the men who fought for the safety and honor of our country. (Loud applause.) It is reported in the press that Mr. Mowatt in his speech at Ottawa the other day said that the government having hanged Riel the people would hang the government. In his revised speech the readers of the *Free Press* would see nothing of this for he had it carefully eliminated: but if you read the speech of Hon. Edward Blake you will find that for the purpose of making a little joke he quotes Mr. Mowatt's words and adds that he would commute the sentence to banishment from office. This shows that he did say it, and they may try to get out of it, but cannot, for there is Mr. Blake's statement before them. The mere fact of their press having uttered what they did when Mr. Prefontaine was elected in Chambly, that revenge should be executed against the Government for the execution of a criminal, shows the

keynote that the opposition is sounding. Sir when the victory was won by Mr. Prefontaine congratulations came not only from Mr. Edgar Mr. Blake's adjutant-general, but also from Mr. Dumas, Riel's ex-adjutant-general. We have right to appeal to your fairness and your judgment, and I ask you, to consider whether we have not done our duty and whether we should be condemned for doing it. The victory at Chambly has furnished still more proof to the people of this country that what we did in seeing the law enforced was right, for we think that when the lives of people stand in jeopardy neither liberals or conservatives can afford to let the agitators of these troubles go free; but we find the opposition receiving from Garnot, the secretary of Riel's counsel, a message congratulating them on their victory and saying that "Riel dead is more powerful than Riel alive."

We fortunately have no such record as that to show. It has yet to be made appear in any portion of the Dominion that the liberal-conservative party has endeavored to set race against race or creed against creed. The false accusation has been made that we did so simply because we had allowed the law to take its course. Let any man whatever his creed or race may be, ask himself in going over the record of our party whether we have in selecting representatives in the cabinet or in the distribution of public patronage been actuated by questions of either class, creed or race. (Applause.) Let him ask to be pointed to any instance in any province of Canada to-day where any man has been excluded from the cabinet because he is English, Irish, Scotch, French, Protestant, or Catholic. (Applause.) And that which I claim in reference to representation, I can fairly claim on this platform or any platform in Canada, in reference also to the distribution of public patronage or the exercise of any power of government. Then, sir, if what I have said be true as regards the province of Quebec, how is it with reference to my own province, which I yet think one of the brightest spots in the Dominion? (Cheers.)

Let me ask those who are championing the cause of secession there, or that of annexation here, who are using the name of Edward Blake to conjure by, if they are willing to accept the support of those whose watchword is, "RIEL DEAD IS MORE POWERFUL THAN RIEL ALIVE!" The policy of the opposition is different in each province. It is secession in Nova Scotia, reciprocity in New Brunswick, revenge in Quebec, and slander in Ontario.

I thank you very much for the patient manner in which you have listened to me, and I am exceedingly indebted to you, but it is because I know I have taxed your patience, and in closing I would say that I have found throughout Canada wherever I have gone, an honest desire expressed from both sides to hear the fullest discussion of these public questions of the day, and I declare to you that I feel that our party and its policy will triumph wherever free and fair discussion takes place. (Cheers.)

