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Maritime Farmer.

FREDERICTON, N. B., March 24, 1886.

Blake's Disgrace.

The leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, has at last thrown off the mask, and comes out squarely in sympathy with the Riel agitators. He has made a speech in Parliament five and a half hours in length, in which he supported Mr. Landry's resolution censuring the Government for executing Riel. Mr. Blake therefore condones the rebellion, the bloodshed, and the plunder of last spring in the Northwest. He allies himself with those who hold up Riel, the arch rebel, the murderer of innocent men and women, the despoiler of property, the slayer of Scott, as a hero and a martyr. A few weeks ago at London, Ontario, Mr. Blake declared with uplifted hands that "he would never construct a platform from the Regina scaffold, or open the portals of the future with the blood rusted key of the past," and all loyal Canada applauded his utterance. But what has happened. Why Mr. Blake actually stands up in Parliament and for half a day pleads the cause of Riel. He pours forth his commanding eloquence in condemnation of the Government for allowing the law to take its course; for permitting justice to hang the miserable rebel of the Northwest, and his party applaud. What a cry would have been raised by Mr. Blake and his followers, if Riel had not hanged. Canada would have rung from centre to circumference with Mr. Blake's denunciation, if the Government had dared to have stepped in and saved Riel's neck. What does the honest rank and file of the Grit party think now of their leaders. Will they disgrace themselves by following longer, a man who does not hesitate to stand up in his place in Parliament and express sympathy with a murderer? To what ends will not partyism carry a man, when Blake assumes the position he has in this Riel question.

There is no shelter for Blake behind the excuse that his condemnation of the Government in this instance, is because of their management of affairs in the Northwest. The resolution upon which he is asked to vote at this time, censures the Government for allowing Riel to hang. Mr. Blake will have ample opportunity to pronounce upon the Government's policy in the Northwest. He can condemn it if he will, but he can do that and still approve of Riel's execution. That, however, would not answer the purposes of party. He sinks his manhood, his intelligence, his sense of justice and honor for party advantage. He comes forward as the champion of the worst forms of crime in the calendar. He endorses treason and felony, he applauds murder, and spoliation, and therein in his disgrace, Can the people of Canada, whose sons have fought and died to preseve the honor and integrity of their country; whose friends and relations have benn stricken down by the bullets of the savages, led on by Riel, ever forgive the leader of a party who condones the author of all these offences? Will they ever permit such a man as that to rule over the destimes of Canadas? We do not believe that it will be possible for Edward Blake to wipe out from the country's mind, the remembrance of the infamous course he is pursulng in this Riel question, and until he can do that, he can never hope to rule this country.

Hon. P. A. Landry.

Very few young men in this country took the prominent position in the Local Legislature, achieved by Hon. P. A. Landry in a short time, and fewer young men occupy as prominent a position in the House of Commons as he. While holding leading positions in the Executive of New Brunswick, he made a most enviable record for himself, and in the Assembly he was one the leading speakers. But the wider arena of the House of Commons was more suited to Mr. Landry's ability, and we are glad to know that he has not disappointed the expectations of his friends. We produce elsewhere' a summary of his clever speech in the Riel debate, an effort which has won him applause on all sides. Mr. Landry's address coming as it did from a French-Acadian, had all the more weight for the Government.

The Montreal *Star* which is always critical and fairly independent in its Ottawa reports, has the following remarks on Mr. Landry's speech, and other journals in the Upper Provinces were equally complimentary:—

"Mr. Landry, of Kent, followed with the best speech so far on the Government side. It contained a most unparliamentary amount of solid common sense. He is the fastest talker in the House of Commons, He is a verbal Niagara. He talks 220 words a minute right along, and when he is on his feet the *Hansard* reporters are in a fever, and life is not worth living in the press gallery. He spoke for an hour and a half yesterday, and what he said, if fully reported, would fill about twenty columns of the *Star*, and yet he said very little that was not worth listening to."

"As the leader of the French Canadians of the Maritime Provinces, Mr. Landry claimed that the Quebec agitation was one dangerous to the well being of his race and of the country, because, while the leaders gave the agitation a constitutional aspect in Parliament, the mass of the people in Quebec, were inflamed by appeals to race and creed."

We congratulate Mr. Landry on his great success, and we congratulate Kent County and the French Acadians of New Brunswick, on possessing so able, so honorable, and so worthy a representative in Parliament.

Hon. Mr. Barberie's Attitude.

Hon. Mr. Barberie, who was a warm supporter of Mr. Blair in the Assembly from 1878 to 1885, when he was appointed to the Legislative Council by Mr. Blair's Goverhment, has spoken his mind pretty freely on the insincerity of the Government with respect to reforms. He delivered quite a lengthy speech in the Council last Friday, from which we give a sufficient number of extracts to show what he thinks of the course the Government has pursued.

Speaking of the report on the finances, which appears elsewhere, Mr. Barberie said:—

"He looked upon it as one of vast importance to the country In the other branch of the Legislature he had strenuously advocated reforms and economy. It was the platform of the then opposition, and that was his platform still. He was still desirous of carrying out that platform. Very many reductions can be made in the public expenditure. They can be made and ought to be made. Any pledge that he had made while a member of the Assembly he would carry out, for he stood here to do his duty conscientiously. There is nothing in the committee's report, but is absolutely true so far as his knowledge went. The committee had the Auditor General and Deputy Receiver General before them and it was understood that all the statements that were put down by the committee, were put down without coloring and were drawn from official sources."

In referring to the reduction of the Executive, one of Mr. Blair's pet hobbies while in opposition, Mr. Barberie said:

"He was confident that the reduction in the number of the executive could have been carried out with a saving to the country. The forecastle members of the Government were more for ornament than use and he said this without reflecting on the gentlemen who at present occupy those positions. The committee advocate the reduction of the executive to six members. When we think of a single individual doing five times as much business as is done by the Government, it does seem absurd that we should have nine members of the Government. There are too many generals and in this connection the hon. gentleman referred to the preponderating influence of eight members of the Government on the floor of the Assembly. It is a pretty weak Government that cannot keep itself in power when they only require thirteen members besides themselves to have a majority."

On the stumpage question, Mr. Barbarie condemned the Government, and showed the evils arising from the present high rate. Said he:—

"The lumber trade is depressed and one cause of it is the rate of stumpage charged. There is not a living in it now and poor men cannot go into the trade. It may be said that there is too much lumbering, but where would our revenue come from if this industry was shut down. The Government say we must have a revenue That, he admitted, was true, but it you shut down the lumbering business you must shut down almost everything else in the country. He hoped the Government would see the necessity of reducing the rate. It would be shown, doubtless before this debate closes, that a reduction can be made with all safety. Is it fair or just that one industry should be crushed? How are the people whose livelihood is in the trade, to exist. If you cripple this industry you drive hundreds of men out of the country. The Government might say we cannot reduce the rate, but if he were in the Government he thought he would at least make an effort to assist the people. Hundreds of dollars could be saved in travelling expenses of the Government, and the loss that would be occasioned by a reduction of the stumpage, could be met in that way."

Mr. Barbarie also strongly condemned the fishery regulations of the Government, remarking that:—

"All the North Shore asks is fair play and justice, but legislation apparently all tended to the benefit of the rich as against the poor. It is most abominable that foreigners are allowed to come in and swallow up the peoples birth-right. The Government may say, oh we have a revenue from the fisheries, but he had fought in the Assembly for the interests of the people, and the very moment he got what they asked the Government stepped in and took the credit. Is it right, is it fair, is it honest, that men who have been settled along the Restigouche for years are not allowed to cast a rod or spear a fish. These settlers could not be worse used. The river is put up for sale, and Vanderbilt and the lord knows who—rich men come down and swallow up the fisheries. It was, indeed, hard that the settlers who had lived there and reared their familes should be compelled to surrender their birth right to foreigners."

Mr. Barbarie is to be congratulated on the manly, independent stand he has taken on these questions, and if by his outspoken condemnation of the Government's policy, he has incurred the displeasure of Mr. Blair and his colleagues, he has the satisfaction of knowing that he spoke conscientiously on these matters.

The Legislative Council.

Another effort is being made to abolish this body, but it will meet with the same fate as its predecessors. Mr. Ellis in the Assembly, made a lengthy, historical, and altogether clever speech, in favor of abolition, and his bill for that purpose passed the Assembly, by a large majority, only seven members voting against it, among those seven being Hon. Mr. McLellan, Provincial Secretary. The measure, however, will meet with a very cool reception in the Upper Chamber. It is doubtful if it will get further than the head of the stairs, a fate quite worthy of it. We repeat the statement, that public opinion in the country does not demand abolition. We doubt if one gentleman who voted for abolition in the Assembly, came to the Legislature pledged to that course. The question has never been an issue before the country, and it never will be a successful issue, so long as the Council is doing the public good service.

It is rather remarkable, that on the question of abolition which is a part of the Government policy, one of the leading members of the Executive, Mr. McLellan, is at variance with his colleagues, a fact that demonstrates, that the Government are toying with the question, and would not abolish the Council if they could. The talk of abolition is a species of cheap claptrap, which is considered useful, upon which to go to some portions of the country, but the Government and the politicians who talk abolition, feel quite safe in their course, because it will have no practical effect.

Mr. Blake has apparently met a foeman worthy of his steel in Mr. Thompson, Minister of Justice. For five hours Mr. Thompson held the close attention of the house and galleries, and at the close the members went out refusing to hear Mills, who followed. In the corridors and everywhere the speech of the Minister of Justice is spoken of as ranking with the best efforts ever made in the chamber. "Conservative stock," said one, "has gone up fifty per cent." "Blake has found his master," said another, "because Thompson possesses as great industry, as great power of marshalling facts, greater natural acuteness of intellect, fuller grasp of facts and far away greater politeness." Everywhere the same expression of opinion is heard. The lawyers say they never listened to a finer exposition of the law.

About the latter part of February, the French met with a severe defeat and heavy loss fighting the Hovas in Madagascar]

CURRENT NOTES.

In the absence of Sir John from the Commons, Sir Hector Langevin acts as first Minister.

Sir John A. Macdonald is very ill, but hopes are entertained that he will shortly be around again. He has not been in Parliament for ten days.

The St. John people have a Scott Act campaign on their hands. We hear that the Act is likely to be carried there, this time. It was a tie vote before.

Hon. Mr. Thompson, Minister of Justice, made a magnificent speech on the Riel debate, completely answering Mr. Blake on all points. He is indeed a worthy successor to Sir Charles Tupper in the Cabinet.

Mayor Howland of Toronto, has been unseated, because the property on which he qualified stood in his wife's name, and a new election has been ordered. The Ontario Legislature, however, passed a bill last night amending the law so that Howland will be qualified to contest the election again.

Business is proceeding rapidly in the Legislature, and porogation will likely take place the middle of next week. Attention is just now directed to the Legislative Council, in which a discussion on the financial affairs of the Province is in progress, The report of the special committee thereon, will be found elsewhere.

Miss Abigail Bates of Scituate, Mass., who died the other day at the age of 89 years, was one of two heroines who, during the war of 1812, drove the British forces from Scituate harbor by concealing themselves in bushes and playing vigorously upon a drum and fife, thereby leading the enemy to believe a large force was ready to receive them.

St. Paul's Episcopal congregation of Halifax, the rectorship of which has been vacant since the resignation of Rev. Dr. Hill last year, have decided to call Rev. Wester Jones of Lindsay, Ont., a young man of 32, he being the first selection from a large number of application. The parish is the largest low church in the Maritime Provinces, and the salary is $2000 with a curate.

The first sitting of the Court of Revision for East Bruce, Ontario, under the Dominion Franchise Act of last session was held at Walkerton, Thursday, before His Honor Judge Kingsmill. On opening the Court it was found that 382 declarations put in by the Conservatives had mysteriously disappeared from the judge's chambers. The Court had to be adjourned in consequence.

The following skeleton sketch of a prospective ditty was lately found on the desk of a rising young poet. The skeleton may be filled in by our intelligent and poetical readers, according to fancy.

"Boy.....fun,
Toy.....gun.
Gun.....bust,
Boy.....dust."

A Chicago paper says that Arthur Pitcairn, a son of Canon Pitcairn of Eccles, near Manchester, England, has accepted the offer of $5000, made by the father of the dime museum freak, known as Fanny Mills, the big footed girl, to any man who would marry his daughter. Pitcairn has been in Chicago for some time in rather reduced circumstances, but he is apparently what he claims to be, and gives as references a number of prominent clergymen.

The Salvation Army is completing arrangements for holding in London a monster international religions convention, beginning May 28th, and lasting one week. The managers announce that they have secured five of the largest halls in London for the accommodation of the thousands expected to attend. The 2500 delegates expected will include Hindoos, negros, Maories and American Indians. Passage for the American delegates has already been secured aboard the steamer "Assyrian Monarch."

The cadets of the Royal Military College at Kingston, presented to Miss Hewitt, on the occasion of her marriage, a beautiful gold-lined nut basket, but Col. Hewitt, commandant, returned the gift with a letter of regret, saying:

"My official position is such that I could not, with consistency, allow her to accept anything except the good feeling and kind memory it represents without infringing on the spirit of regulations. I am sure that the cadets will not think me ungrateful or unappreciative when I assure them that it is my duty only which compels me to ask my daughter to return to them their handsome present absolutely."

In a racy letter to the Woodstock *Press*, a lady correspondent describing the opening of Parliament says:—"One of the ladies, of moderate income, has bought for this yearly show an eight hundred dollar necklace, and was enjoying a sense of satisfaction in looking at her less fortunate sisters, when in came Lady Macdonald wearing the diamond necklace presented to her by Sir George Stephen, costing fifteen thousand dollars, and shortly after Lady Lansdowne appeared, dressed in black for her father, the Duke of Abercorn, but with a display of diamonds glittering and sparkling in their beauty, and these changed the eight hundred dollar necklace into a trinket, a bauble, vanity and vexation of spirit."

Four years ago, the Grocers' Company in London, G. B., founded several Scholarships of $1300 a year each, for scientific researches. One of their scholars, Dr. Wooldridge, has discovered a constituent of the blood not known before, which is likely to revolutionize one branch of science, that which deals with causation of disease. He has discovered a protein compound, which easily becomes the originator of septic fever. There exists therefore, in healthy blood, the source of fever, whose specific character may depend upon outside influences, though the illness or fever itself started within. This was separated from the serum of blood by the *action of cold*. The discovery is likely to make the students of the causation of disease search after some new cause rather than, as at present, search for germs and fungi from without.

Gora Green, a pretty fourteen year old girl, who escaped last Sunday at Greenville, Ohio, from John McVey, a gypsy, and his two female companions, says she was kidnapped from her home near Lebanon, Ind., over a year ago, and was compelled to travel about the country with the gypsies. McVey, she says, shot her in the head, kicked her, cut her on the body with a hatchet, beat her with a club, flogged her with a buggy whip and outraged her person. He also drove a nail through her foot, fastening her to a board and swung her up to the waggon bows. Marks of the girl's wounds are still plainly visible. McVey and his companions decamped as soon as they learned of the girl's escape. A large number of the Greenville citizens are hunting for the party and if they are captured lynching will probably follow.

Mr. Spurgeon, the renowned preacher, told the following story the other day. He endeavors to encourage the young students, those he is training as preachers, to give extempore addresses on subjects given as they go to the rostrum. A bowl is in the room with a number of slips of paper, each inscribed with some subject. The youth takes a piece of paper on his way to the rostrum, and speaks off hand on the subject given him. Once a student was named, chose his piece of paper and mounted the steps, and said: "The subject that has fallen to my lot is Zaccheus, a subject which comes home to me—Zaccheus was of small stature—that is my condition. Zaccheus in obedience to a praiseworthy impulse found himself up a tree,—that is my position. Zaccheus made haste to come down—that is my intention;" and down he came. The lad deserved a prize.

Hon. J. A. CHAPLEAU,

SECRETARY OF STATE!

Hon. Mr. Chapleau's ancestors came from France and were early settles in the Seigniory of Terrebone. Born at Ste. Therese de Blainville, Terrebonne, in the Province of Quebec, on the 9th of November, 1840, and was educated at the college of Terrebonne. Married 25th November, 1874, to Marie Louise, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel King, Brigade Major, Sherbrooke. Called to the Bar, Lower Canada, 1871; created Queen's Council in 1873. He was created an officer of the Legion of Honor (France), on the 10th November, 1882, and an officer of the Order of St. Gregory the Great (Roman). He is a director of the Laurentides Railway Company and of *Le Credit Foncier du Bas Canada*, and is a Professor of the Laval University (criminal jurisprudence) in the section established in Montreal. Was a member of the Executive Council and Solicitor-General from 17th February, 1873, until 8th September, 1874, when he resigned with his chief, Mr. Ouimet. He was appointed Provincial Secretary and Registrar, 27th January, 1876, which position he held until the dismissal of the Government by Letellier de St. Just, 1878, when he became leader of the Conservative Opposition, and was called upon to form the present Local Government when Mr. Joly resigned, on the 30th October, 1879. Was Premier and Minister of Agriculture and Public Works until his resignation. Sworn in to the Privy Council and appointed Secretary of State of Canada, in succession to Hon. J. A. Mousseau, who succeeded him as Premier of the Province of Quebec on 29th July, 1882. Unsuccessfully contested Vercheres for the House of Commons at the general election of 1872. Was first returned to Parliament for Terrebonne, by acclamation, at the general election of 1867; re-elected by acclamation at the general election of 1871, and again on his appointment to office. Again returned at the general election of 1875, and by acclamation, on his second appointment to office in the DeBoucherville Government, and re-elected at the general election of 1878, on accepting present office, and again at the general election of 1881. Elected for Terrebonne in the House of Commons on the 23rd of August, 1882 Mr. Chapleau is one of the cleverest orators in Canada and is popular with both parties. A rousing speech is expected from him before the Riel debate closes.

THE RIEL DEBATE.

Landry's able Defence of the Government.

BLAKE EXPRESSES SYMPATHY FOR THE REBEL.

Minister of Justice Thompson replies to the Opposition Leader.

A Worthy Successor to Tupper.

The discustion still in Progress.

The FARMER'S report of the Riel debate in the House of Commons which is still in progress, was brought down to Hon. A. P. Caron moving the adjournment, and at that point we resume the report to-day.

On Thursday, the Minister of Militia and Mr. Landry of Kent, N. B, made effective speeches on the Government side, while Mr. Desjardins, who replied to Sir A. P. Caron, did not say much that was new, and was very moderate in tone. Mr. Landry's speech was particularly well received by the Tories. He condemned unsparingly, although not in an offensive way, the Quebec agitation, and carried a little comfort to a number of Government supporters who have been grumbling about the course of the debate. The party is being held well in hand by the Ministers, who are anxious to have the debate end without anything being said to hurt Quebec's feelings, and this does not suit all the party. There are, at least, two or three men on the Tory side of the House who would give a good deal to be let loose for ten minutes on the Riel agitation and agitators.

Sir Adolphe Caron's Speech.

The Minister of Militia made an unexpectedly good showing. He did not dodge the issue at all; he said that if a similar conjunction of circumstances arose he would, even in the light of all that he knew since, do again just what he had done. The speech was a gentlemanly as well as game one, too, and in this respect he showed to much better advantage than Mr. Amyot.

He took up personal ground to a considerable extent; dwelt upon his duty as a minister; on the necessity to Canada of the execution being carried out; claimed that the Quebec excitement was the result of a portion of the people being carried away by surprise in the interest of selfish agitators; defended his loyalty to the province. and challenged the verdict of the sober second thought of its people.

In the course of the speech he made points against both Mr. Amyot and Mr. Laurier. Referring to Mr. Laurier's famous utterance about

SHOULDERING A MUSKET FOR RIEL,

he said, "Whether it be on the banks of St. Lawrence or of Saskatchewan, we, on this side of the House, will shoulder our muskets for law and order, and not for rebels and rebellion," and he then read to the House the oath of office which Mr. Laurier took as a Cabinet Minister under Mr. Mackenzie. The oath required "loyalty and obedience to Her Majesty the Queen and to Canada," and that the taker should do his "utmost to discover and suppress all treason," "without any qualification or mental reservation whatever."

Mr. Amyot he showed to the House in a rather ridiculous light by reading telegrams received by him as Minister of Militia from Mr. Amyot when the latter was in the North-West as Lieut.-Colonel of the 9th Battalion. It should be explained that there was no breach of courtesy in producing the despatches inasmuch as Mr. Amyot moved a day or two ago in the House that all the correspondence should be brought down, probably with a view to prevent the Ministers doing so of their own accord. The telegrams read yesterday by Sir Adolphe included one dated Swift Current, April 25, 1885, practically as follows: "Have got here. Major-General Laurie perfectly pleased. G. Amyot," and another dated Calgary, May 14, 1885: "This war should be made by scouts who are specially adapted for it. The volunteers are specially adapted for the protection of forts and provisions." Mr. Amyot also impressed his conviction that 500 scouts were as good as 2000 volunteers.

DURING THE READING

of these and other despatches, showing that Mr. Amyot concurred in all that the Government did up to the execution—in one letter he warmly congratulated Sir Adolphe Caron on his elevation to knighthood—Mr. Amyot look very blue, and the rest of the House looked immensely tickled. Sir Adolphe made other points against Mr. Amyot, and when he was through with the member for Bellechasse, the latter had but cold comfort remaining out of his reference to "dude officials." Mr. Amyot, persisting in interrupting Sir Adolphe, the latter got the better of him by remarking that the first duty of a soldier under fire was not to get excited. Among other points he referred to the banqueting at Winnipeg just before Riel's execution, and showed that the banquet was one arranged for the Hon. Mr. White, and that he himself received only a sort of seeond-hand invitation; he also showed that at the time the banquet took place Riel's execution was to take place only in case the medical commission then at Regina reported that his sanity had not been impaired since the trial and conviction. He also proved that the commission was not the mock one alleged by Mr. Laurier. He denied emphatically that any telegrams passed between him and Sir John at Winnipeg and Ottawa respectively regarding the state of the public mind calling for Riel's death.

He also cleared up pretty well the assertion that Riel surrendered to General Middleton as a beligerent, by reading affidavits from two of the three scouts who captured Riel to the effect that Riel did not give himself up voluntarilly at all, but was captured in arms and searching for a horse with which to escape.

The speech lasted about three hours, and is admitted to be a valuable addition to the case for the Crown.

Mr. Desjardins,

who came next, first expressed his conviction that Mr. Landry, whose good faith was being questioned, was sincere. Mr. Landry, who was sitting in the next seat to Mr. Desjardins, looked pleased. Mr. Desjardins spoke for a couple of hours in English, emphasizing the points made by preceding anti-Government speakers, but not developing new matter of consequence. His speech was very moderate in tone, and a statement he made, that while condemning the Goverment in connection with the North-West he could not condemn its general railway and trade policy, was not calculated to tickle the Grits.

Hon. P. A. Landry, M. P., for Kent, New Brunswick,

said that when the news first came to New Brunswick of the feeling produced in the province of Quebec by the hanging of Riel, he thought it came in an exaggerated form, but after reading the reports of the speeches and the newspaper utterances in the province of Quebec he had come to the conclusion that the accounts of the agitation there had not been exaggerated. But while he found this to be the case, he did not from the first believe that the occasion justified that agitation and he took the opportunity of saying so in public. He regretted at the time to find that a number of Quebec Conservatives had felt bound to differ from the Government on this question. He ventured the belief then—a belief which was strengthened by the speeches of the hon. gentlemen since coming to this house—that they would be sorry for having, under the influence of the momentary agitation, denounced the Government so ardently for its action on this question.

MR AMYOT—Hear, hear.

MR. LANDRY said the hon. gentleman might repudiate that prediction, but neither he nor any of his friends in their speeches in the house had gone the length of their utterances in the country. He read an article from *La Presse*, in which it was stated that the political divisions of party in the province of Quebec would hereafter be the "national party" and the "hanging party," and again it said there now only existed one party in the province, and that was the "national party." In the same paper of the 16th November, when the population was excited, was given an account of the demonstration and a speech, in which it was stated:—"This execution is

A STAIN TO THE ENGLISH FLAG

and an insult to the nation, for if he has been executed, it is especially because he was a Catholic and because he had French blood in his veins;" and again "Riel must lie side by side with the political martyrs of 1837-38. His name will be engraven on our hearts and when the hour of vengeance comes again we will strike." What inflammatory language and especially when it was delivered while holding a national flag. The news of the demonstrations in Montreal had reached his constituents much more quickly than in the ordinary course, newspapers containing the reports having been addressed to his constituents for the purpose of exciting them also. He considered this most reprehensible. On the 17th of November the following came from Quebec:—

"*L'Electeur* has appeared in mourning and its articles are very violent. All its columns are devoted to Riel, and it invites French-Canadians not to forget the martyr who has been assassinated for the French cause."

He would say, call him a martyr if they would, but certainly not that he died for the French cause. If there was ever a mistaken appellation to any man it was to say that Riel died representing the French cause. Riel only represented his own cause. How could he represent even the cause of the half-breeds, when out of about twelve-hundred capable of bearing arms, only two hundred fifty or three hundred were induced to join him, and many of these said they were obliged to join him because they were afraid of their lives. (Cheers.) The hon. gentlemen who had preceded him (Mr. Desjardins) had said they did not want to give the half-breeds any encouragement at their meetings last fall, but were they not giving these half-breeds encouragement by the course they were pursuing now? He firmly believed that the Government, before it decided to execute Riel, had looked ground them and had simply done what they thought would be best for the material prosperity of the whole country (cheers), and more particularly what would be best for the Northwest Territories. (Renewed cheers.) It would not have been good for the peace and prosperity of the country if Riel had escaped his just punishment. (Hear, hear.) He believed from the evidence before him that

RIEL WAS PERFECTLY SANE.

He might have been excited at times, but he was sane enough to feel the full responsibility of his position. He had as yet not been able to lay his hand upon any one wrong that would justify any person from even thinking of rebellion or anything that would even look like a violation of any rights. (Hear, hear.) Had they been interfered with in the exercise of their religion, in their manner of worship, in their liberty of speech, in their manner of work, in the possession of their soil, or in anything which could be considered the rights of the subject under the British constitution? He failed to see any interference whatever. It was true that they sent delegations and petitions to Ottawa for a number of years, and he believed it might have possible, been better for the Government to have given way to them, for imaginary grievances are quite as sore as real grievances. But that there existed any possible tangible grievance in the Northwest, he had failed to see. He had not seem one title of evidence that they had been dispossessed of their lands or turned out of their homes, or interfered with in any of their rights that belonged to people in other parts of the Dominion. But he did not believe they had, legally speaking, a right to the soil. They may have had a right to preference over others, and these preferences were considered as soon as this Government came into power. In 1878 the first thing they did was to pass an act which recognized these rights, and still we were told the Government never considered the matter from that day to this. (Hear, hear.) Why, the Government proceeded at once to ascertain what rights they had by a system of surveys, and since 1879 many millions of acres of land had been surveyed as compared with a few thousand acres by the Goyernment in power from 1873 to 1878. They should remember the distance from the Northwest to Ottawa, the many difficulties in the way and also that there was a clamor that too much was being done for the Northwest territories to the

DETRIMENT OF THE OTHER PROVINCES.

He was not such an admirer of the present administration as to say they never did wrong, but he was bound to say that since he had been a member of the House he had heard more discussion relating to that country than to any province in the Dominion. He thought that the Government should not have yielded and given the half-breeds scrip since the rebellion broke out. He would not say that the Government did wrong, but he believed that it was not in the interest of half-breeds themselves that they should have done so. Since the rebellion broke out they had been told that nearly 2,000 claims had been settled in the Northwest. The majority of them received scrip to the value of $240, and this scrip was sold for $90 and some even for $70, and to-day he ventured to say that the large majority of these people were as badly off, if not worse off, than before. And yet they were told that this was a great evidence that these people had grievances. Everything pointed to the fact that Riel had exaggerated these grievances for purposes of his own aggrandizement. The first thing he did when he went to the North-West was to go to the priests' house and ask for the father's blessing, but so soon as he found out that the priests would not help him he had no hesitation in denouncing them. In the only interview which he had with anybody did he authorize anybody to negotiate for a settlement of the half-breed claims? No. He forgot all about the grievances which he was supposed to represent and said that if the Government would give him $100,000 for even $35,000 he would return to the United States. This showed clearly he was there to further his own ends, and when he was told a commission had been appointed he said, "It is too late. It is a war of extermination we want." Was that an evidence of insanity? There were only sixteen of those who took part in the rebellion who laid their claims before the Commission. Did that look natural? Then Riel was not at the head of those who had the grievances. Out of the sixteen persons to whom he had referred fifteen of them stated on oath they had been

FORCED TO JOIN THE REBELLION.

It was not because they felt the weight of their grievances but because they were afraid of the man who was leading them on. What was done to those who declined to join Riel in the rebellion? Did he not imprison them, not exempting two priests? If there had been any truth in the statement that Riel had come there for the purpose of leading the people in a constitutional agitation he would not have resorted to those acts. And it was not only that he got these people to take up arms against the Government, but, first of all, he forced storekeepers to give up their stocks of arms and ammunition to aid him in carrying on the rebellion. To plead for sympathy for any worthy object was laudable, and no one admired more than he did the eloquent language used by the member for Quebec East (Mr. Laurier) when he defended the cause of Riel, but if instead of extending his sympathy to a criminal, he had pleaded for the misguided Indians who were executed, and for those who lost their lives in defence of their country, how much more in sympathy with the sentiment of the country would have been his speech. The duty of the people's representatives was to discountenance those inflammatory influences which were calculated to array one portion of the people against another, and to promote peace and harmony amongst all classes. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Guay followed in French in opposition to the Government.

Mr. Blake.

He said the question belongs to that branch of the administration of Justice over which the executive had by law control. It was the proper thing to bring before parliament. The discussion was one of a delicate character. All party spirit shhould be eliminated. Parliament was called upon to act in the spirit of a judge. Holding this view his party had decided that there should be no association of party in their ranks. Whatever course the government side might take as a party, his supporters had agreed with him that each should vote as he conceives it right to vote. As for himself, he spoke for himself alone. He had waited to hear all that could be said on either side. Materials highly important to help to a conclusion had not been brought forward. Those that had been laid on the table were in manuscript, and few had therefore been able to peruse them. The conduct of ministers was blameable about the papers. They selected such papers as they thought would best suit their cases, refusing to bring down others. The whole conduct of the Northwest matters by the government was material to this question. It was putting the cart before the horse to discuss the final act in the great drama before being thoroughly acquainted with the preceeding acts. It was inconvenient, illogical and an unsatisfactory course. The previous question as moved by Langevin was unwise. He, however, would deplore if any attempt had been made to have a decision on the other questions at the same time. He, himself, would vote against the motion that the question be now put, though he knew he would be in a small minority. He then said he proposed to discuss the method in which he should deal with Landry's motion. He said that it had been suggested that the opposition should

ABSTAIN FROM VOTING AT ALL

upon Landry's motion. There were many reasons to be argued in favor of the wisdom of such a course. They might abstain if they pleased. He had reached a conclusion clear and well founded. He held the government responsible for everything that had been suffered in consequence of the rebellion, for every life sacrificed, for every death, whether on the scaffold or elsewhere. He admitted that Riel was legally guilty of high treason, no matter how long the grievances had been endured or how great in number or degree, provided he was mentally responsible. The government's counsel at the trial had stopped the enquiry into the grievances and prevented it rightly. The question at the trial was complicity in insurrection, and, for Riel, whether being guilty of complicity, to be found guilty or not guilty by reason of his insanity. He (Blake) regretted the choice of the judge to try high treason. The stipendiaries of the North-west were not as in other provinces, men of weight, dignity and authority. They were political officers having seats in the North-west council. They were not independent judges, because the government could remove them of its own motion, as had been done. He next dealt with the question of Riel's sanity.

HE ADMITTED RIEL'S GUILT,

admitted that there was a devergence of opinion between lawyers and doctors respectinh the degree of insanity which might accompany responsibility, the lawyers holding stronger views than the doctors, and quoted largely from medical works to show what insanity was. He then presented the doctrines of the law on insanity, and from that passed to evidence at the trial. The first point, he said, was that Riel had undoubtedly been insane, that afterwards he became sane and subsequently at the time of the insurrection had had a recurrence of insanity. Riel's case he considered was insanity at lucid intervals. He read a letter from one of the jurymen, stating that after they had listened, to the evidence and the judges charge, the jury went out and the foreman asked first was Riel guilty and second was he sane. To both questions they answered immediately "yes." The recommendation to mercy was because they thought there had been grievances, Blake said he did not agree with the jurymen about the insanity. He finished by stating that it was deeply to be regretted that the execution was allowed to take place and he would vote for Landry's motion.

Hon. J. S. D. Thompson, Minister of Justice.

on rising was received with great applause. He said the charge that Landry's motion was framed by the Government was not true. The executive would if it framed such an indictment against itself he unfaithful to the trusts placed in its charge. The position the government took was the same as Blake would have had to take if he were Minister of Justice. There is no parliament in the British realm which arrogates to itself the right to decide upon matters relating to the administration of justice. It the nature of things, parliament could not, ought not to be the court of appeal in such cases. Partisan feeling was always present and the commons could not come to the question with the calm deliberation necessary. Blake had complained of the previous question being used to prevent discussion of other subjects germain to the question at issue, but if the Parliament in England did not feel competent to deliberate upon the administration of justice in cases standing alone, how much less likely would we be to possess unclouded judgment, if with the question of the exercise of the prerogative there were mixed up other questions of interest calculated to create divergent views and arouse partisan fellings? He quoted from several British parliamentarians showing that the exercise of the prerogative of the crown was left invariably with the executive untrammelled, and the House of Commons was not the place where cases may be tried over again. Such a course was

INCONVENIENT, INJURIOUS AND DANGEROUS.

The executive must, if weakly supported, also keep in mind that the exercise of the prerogative may be traversed by the opposition and taken to the polls. This degraded the administration of justice. As to the papers, he said the country had been given before the house met, all the records which would have been laid before a court of appeal, yet the opposition called out for more papers. If more were brought down, he ventured the statement that the gentlemen opposite would find in them matters equally satisfactory (as those already brought down. The more papers they brought down the less the opposition would like them. In the British parliament, he (Thompson) had searched the records for 25 years back and had been unable to find a single instance in which papers relating to exercise of the prerogative were even asked to be brought down, He had found instances in which ministers has incidentally remarked that of course papers would not be laid on the table, yet here we had the spectacle of Cameron of Huron, in the midst of a violent attack on the government for not bringing down all sorts of papers, asking in a loud voice, why was not Riel's diary brought down, and then in a low voice asking Laurier whether it had been brought down or not. That was what the Commons was coming to under the violent action of some of the opposition.

He (Thompson) then turned to Blake's attack upon the government, founded on a presumed difference between law in the Northwest and in other provinces and showed that practically the law was identical; and on the point of the trial, because Riel's counsel had not been granted the month's delay the they asked for, he showed that no application had been made to judge Richardson for a month's delay. The prisoner's counsel had asked for a delay in order to give time to get witnesses, but the counsel for and against had agreed that if the government would use all its officers to summon and would pay witnesses, a delay of a week would be quite sufficient. Much had been made of the alleged refusal of the government to pay Dr. Howard $500 as a witness. As a matter of fact the minister of justice had telegraphed Riel's counsel stating Howard's demand and asked shall I pay him the money and send him? The defence said, "We would not asked the crown to pay any such sum. Tell him he need not come." As to the time allowed, he Thompson held in his hand from Fitzgerald, the counsel for defence, the statement "I think it reasonable time." It had been alleged that

INTERPRETERS HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED.

It was not true. The department of justice had taken no part in selecting interpreters. It agreed to pay those selected by the defence. As to the objection made that papers captured at Batoche had not been allowed by the government to be used at the trial, as a matter of fact none were asked for by the counsel or by the prisoner. Riel has had the fairest possible trial. He had more than would be given to any other accused in the older provinces, because in the Northwest a prisoner had the advantage of appeal on law and fact to the court of appeal. It was significant that not a single exception was taken by the prisoner's counsel to the rulings or to the charge of Judge Richardson, The prisoner's counsel had, in fact, waited on the judge after the trial and thanked him for the fairness of the trial. Not a single petition for commutation on the ground of unfairness of the trial had been sent in. He (Thompson) said the condemnation of the prisoner having been arrived at, the duty of the executive began. It had (1st) to consider the criminality of the prisoner. He read several extracts from the evidence showing the craftiness and wicked purposes of Riel. "Blood, blood," said Riel, "is what I want." (2) His attempt to incite the Indians to rise. He proved Riel's complicity in this and closed this branch by saying the man who incites the Indians of the Northwest to rapine and murder, when he appeals to me as minister of justice for mercy will get justice. He read the depositions of Father Andre, Fourmount and others in which Riel's trickery and venality were thoroughly exposed.

Mr. Thompson then dealt fully and convincingly with Blake's insinuations against the tribunal and the judge before which Riel was tried. He (Thompson) thought such insinuations should not have come from Blake, inasmuch as

BLAKE WAS MINISTER OF JUSTICE.

when the law was placed on the statute book providing for trial by a stipendiary magistrate and six jurors. The statute originally passed in 1875, providing for trial by judges of the superior court of Manitoba, and eight jurors had been changed in 1877, handing over the trial to the stipendiary and reducing the jurors to six. He referred to this as Riels second offence and ridiculed the idea that the first offence should not be considered. There are many statutes which prescribe severer punishment for the second offence than for the first. It is incumbent upon the executive, following the English practice, to take into consideration the previous offence. He cited instances to show that previous history must be enquired into. Entering upon that record to show what opinion had been held by eminent men, he cited Lord Carnarvon. Lisgar, Blake, etc. He then turned to