

Riel and the Grits.

Mr. Blake, in one of his speeches, re-
pelled, with indignation, the idea of
attempting to reach office by the way of
the scaffold at Regina; and Mr. L. H. Davies, in
one of his eulogies, quoted these words in
illustration of the superiority of the Grit
leader to such mean tactics as taking a van-
tage of the feeling in Quebec evoked by
the execution of Riel.

More words! False words! Mr. Blake
and his followers have ever since been try-
ing to make political capital out of the ex-
ecution of Riel. In Parliament and out
of Parliament, by speech and by vote, by
lies and by misrepresentations, by appeals
to prejudices, passions, and even to reli-
gion—by every means in their power—they
have striven to obtain the support of a
majority of the people of Quebec, and so
obtain office.

In Parliament, Mr. Blake and the bulk
of his followers voted for the following
resolution:—

"That this House feels it its duty to express
its deep regret that the sentence of death
passed upon Louis Riel, convicted of high
treason, was allowed to be carried into execution."

Respecting this resolution the representa-
tive Grits of this Island behaved character-
istically. Mr. Yeoshirked the vote; Mr.
McIntyre voted with his Party; while Mr.
Davies, having a large body of Protestant
supporters who must at all hazards be
retained, voted against his Party, and con-
tented himself with distributing—wherever
it was expedient and safe—copies of the
speech of the Rielite Laurier; as
much as to say "You know how
it is; I had to vote as I did; but
Laurier's speech breathes my sentiments."
The Grit leaders condemn and denounce
the Government for not interfering with
due operation of the law in order to pre-
vent the execution of the death sentence
of Riel on two grounds:—

1. They say that Riel was insane, and
that an insane man should not on any ac-
count be hanged.

2. They say that the Riel Rebellion
was due to the bad administration of the
Government in the Northwest, and there-
fore warrantable; consequently its leader
should not have been hanged.

We need not say anything about the first
of these grounds; for the physicians in
charge of Riel previous to his execution,
have effectually disposed of it. But the
second is a ground upon which strong as-
sertions have been made and a great deal
of misapprehension prevails. Mr. M. C.
Cameron, who aspires to be head of the
Interior Department when the Grits get
in, and who is the chief mouth-piece of the
Grit party concerning the affairs of the
Northwest in the course of a speech in
Parliament—which Mr. Davies has, if we
mistake not, circulated in this Province—
said:—

"I say it is a marvel to me, not that the Indians
took to arms against the English power of this
country, but that the majority of the long years
ago Indians did not protest in the only way
known to the civilized world—their own
administration, incapacity and culpable neglect of
this Administration."

These, and many other statements to the
same effect, have made a decided impres-
sion upon the public mind. We frankly
own that THE EXAMINER'S belief in the
honesty and care of the Administration of
the Northwest was shaken by the fact of
the rebellion and by the strong declara-
tions made concerning it; and we have no
doubt that the beliefs of hundreds of peo-
ple throughout the country were affected
in the same way. The impression is false,
as the statements by which it was produced
are false.

During the present year the facts have
been carefully collated, and it now appears
that many of the proofs adduced by Mr. M.
C. Cameron and the Grit Party, in support
of their contention that a dreadful state of
affairs existed previous to the rebellion, as a
result of bad administration in the North-
west, were distorted and garbled. Here is
a sample—a specimen brick. In the course
of one of his speeches Mr. Cameron said:—

"One of the agents, Mr. Herchmer, writing
upon the subject, says in his report for last year:—
"During the winter I visited the Pas reserves a
number of times and witnessed the actual condi-
tion of the Indians. For three months—January
to March—many of those in the Pas, Birch river
and the mountains suffered keenly. It was im-
possible to supply fuel as it was actually needed,
for there was no fuel in the district. Un-
doubtedly a great deal of relief given let winter,
though unprecedentedly high, has been the means
of preserving numbers of these Indians alive."

"They were suffering keenly, he says; there
was no fuel in the district, simply because the
policy of the administration was a policy of re-
taining the Indians in submission by starvation.
In the same report Mr. Herchmer says:—
"About the same time an Indian came from
the Pas mountains, telling me of the privation from
which he and his family were suffering, and asking
for aid; and further, that his Mountain Indians
were suffering from want."

What were the facts in this instance?
Mr. Herchmer did not report upon the
subject at all. A Mr. Reader was the
agent who reported, and his language was
deliberately garbled. Here is the extract
from the report as it was written by Mr.
Reader:—

"During the winter I visited the Pas reserve a
number of times and witnessed the actual condi-
tion of the Indians. For three months—January
to March—many of those in the Pas, Birch river
and the mountains suffered keenly. It was im-
possible to supply fuel as it was actually needed,
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"About the same time an Indian came from
the Pas mountains, telling me of the privation from
which he and his family were suffering, and asking
for aid; and further, that his Mountain Indians
were suffering from want."

"I have been a mission teacher on the Blood
reserve for about a year and a half, and hereby
certify that I know nothing and have never
heard of anything to lead me to suspect that any
fraud has been practised by the Indian Depart-
ment employes on said reservation, and I know
of nothing to lead me to the belief that there is
any illicit intercourse existing between the
employes and the Indian women."

Father Lacombe, the oldest and cer-
tainly one of the best authorities on the
subject of the Indians in the Northwest,
writes to the Commissioner, 2nd April,
1886, as follows:—

"Let the Indians alone with the Government
policies appointed to look after their welfare and
there will be no trouble with them." On the

winter, though unprecedentedly large, has been the
means of preserving numbers of these Indians
alive. The chief, John Bell, at the Pas,
has a short time ago, to convey his gratitude
to the great mother for the relief thus given."

It appears that in 1884 the Pas Indians
received their customary allowance on the
25th of August, and at the same time they
would have carried them over the winter
without any suffering, but for the early
setting in of cold weather, and the conse-
quent partial failure of the fisheries. Mr.
Reader said, in the same report:—

"At the Pas and Cumberland, and in fact every-
where in the agency except at Birch River and
the Pas mountains, large numbers of Indians
died in the fall. But the very early setting in
of the winter last season rendered the fall fishing
unsuccessful. The misral, upon which many
of these Indians in the spring and fall have
chiefly lived, was almost extinct. From begin-
ning to end it was therefore a very exceptional
winter in this district, and there is every reason
to believe that, but for the aid rendered by the
Department, not a few would have undoubtedly
succumbed to the effects of privation."

Had Mr. Cameron desired to treat this
matter fairly he would have made clear the
fact that the reason was wholly exceptional.
But, knowing the exceptional character
of the season, he garbled the words of Mr.
Reader, put them into the mouth of Mr.
Herchmer, and coolly told his audience that
the Pas Indians suffered "simply because
the policy of this Administration was a
policy of reducing the Indians to submis-
sion by starvation."

This is but one of hundreds of false,
garbled statements made by Mr. Cameron,
taken up by Mr. Blake, his followers and
his press, and circulated throughout the
land.

On the other hand, we here submit some
of the evidence collected by the Indian
Department, as to the character of its ad-
ministration in the Northwest, previous to
the outbreak of the Riel Rebellion.

The Rev. Alfred Andrews, Methodist
minister at Lethbridge, writes from that
place, under date of March 25th, as fol-
lows:—

"By the request of the President of the Mani-
toba Conference, I am here located, in the
vicinity of our Methodist Church. This has brought
me somewhat into association with the Blood
and Piegan Indians. I have visited some of their
reserves and conversed with them through an in-
terpreter. A fortnight ago I went with our mis-
sionary, Rev. John McLean, to his Mission
among the Bloods on their reserve and remained a
week, visiting the middle and upper agencies
under Mr. Packington's supervision. I must
say what I saw was very creditable indeed to the
Government. You can therefore understand my
astonishment, when, while here, the Globe's
editorial on the Rev. Mr. Robertson's sermon de-
scribed last month at Ottawa on starving Indians
in the Northwest, I have written an article to
the Globe denying his statements."

This article was dated Lethbridge,
Alberta, March 20, 1886, and duly ap-
peared in the Globe. In it Mr. Andrews
states:—

"1. That the Indians seek things in garbage
heaps, not because they are starving, but be-
cause they are curious and not over particular.
"2. That on their reserves he saw himself that
the rations of meat were good, and were the same
as the white officials of the Government get.
"3. That having had dinner with the men, he
found the beef and bread were good, and was the
same as the white officials of the Government get.
"4. That in the matter of food especially, more
was done for the Indians than was ever promised
or realized.
"5. That in the matter of clothing and imple-
ments firm faith was kept with the Indians
under the various treaties.
"6. That Mr. Robertson's statements that the
majority of the Indians were ready to rebel is un-
true.
"7. That Mr. Robertson's statements as to the
failure of missions were very incorrect."

Mr. M. C. Cameron quoted from the
Mail the opinions of a Mr. Grier, to the
effect that "carpet baggers" were import-
ed to fill official positions; that "any
amount of corruption existed in the Indian
Department," and that "fraud comes in by
agreement between the contractors and the
agents on different reserves." Mr. Grier
himself, wrote to Commissioner Reed
under date of February 27, 1886, as fol-
lows:—

"I never intended to convey the idea that I
knew of corruption in the Indian Department.
I have not the slightest suspicion of anything of
the kind, and all the officials are perfectly honest
so far as I know. I do not, of my own knowledge,
know anything in the slightest as to the assertion
of the officials keeping Indian women at the
present time."

The Rev. Leon Doucet, in a statutory
declaration made before Mr. Assistant Com-
missioner Reed, on the 18th February, 1886,
said:—

"1. I have resided on the Blackfoot reserve
most of the time since the early part of 1885.
"2. That I never had any suspicion of any fraud-
ulent transaction between any of the employes
and the contractors with the view of defrauding
the Government or the Indians.
"3. That I have never heard any complaints
from the Indians as to their being defrauded by
the employes."

The Rev. J. N. Tims, on Blackfoot Re-
serve, wrote to Mr. Reed as follows:—

"With regard to our conversation this morn-
ing, a low me to state that during my residence
of two and a half years amongst the North
Blackfoot as an ordained missionary of the
English Church, I have had no knowledge what-
ever of frauds committed by the employes of the
Indian Department, either against the Govern-
ment by conspiring with the contractors, or
against the Indians by disposing of the beef and
flour in any other way than to the Indians them-
selves."

The Rev. H. T. Bourne, of the Blood
and Piegan reserves, writes to Mr. Reed,
March 3, 1886:—

"As there appears to be an erroneous idea
abroad as to frauds being perpetrated by Indian
Department employes, I as a church of English
missionary among the Indians of this district for
the past three years, beg to state that during
such time I never had any suspicion of fraud on
the part of the officials of this district, but always
looked on them as honest and upright men. For
the past few months I have been more immedi-
ately connected with the Piegan reserve, and in
so far as I know, the men thereon are not char-
geable with having immoral intercourse with the
Indian women."

Thos. E. Cliphams, Methodist Mission
teacher, writes on March 3, 1886:—

"I have been a mission teacher on the Blood
reserve for about a year and a half, and hereby
certify that I know nothing and have never
heard of anything to lead me to suspect that any
fraud has been practised by the Indian Depart-
ment employes on said reservation, and I know
of nothing to lead me to the belief that there is
any illicit intercourse existing between the
employes and the Indian women."

Father Lacombe, the oldest and cer-
tainly one of the best authorities on the
subject of the Indians in the Northwest,
writes to the Commissioner, 2nd April,
1886, as follows:—

"Let the Indians alone with the Government
policies appointed to look after their welfare and
there will be no trouble with them." On the

2nd of February, 1884, he had written: "Of
course they know the four policy with the
Indians has always turned for the best, both for
the Government and the Indians."

Lieutenant-Colonel McLeod, the Stipen-
diary Magistrate in Alberta, and as a judge,
quite independent, writes to Commissioner
Reed, on March 4, 1886:—

"I have not the least cause for suspecting that
frauds are being perpetrated by any officers of
the department in this part of the territory; do
not hear such things hinted at or spoken of by
people I meet."

The press is equally favorable. The
Edmonton Bulletin, always an active oppo-
nent of the present Administration, said on
the 7th of June, 1884:—

"BATTLE RESERVE.—A great deal of credit for
the superior advancement of this band is due to
the exertions of the instructor, Mr. Lucas, who
spares no pains to assist them in every way."

The McLeod Gazette says:—

"The Rev. Mr. McLean takes no stock in very
much of the clap-trap about the abuses practised
on the Indians by Government officials."

The Calgary Herald says:—

"Rev. John McLean, missionary to the Blood
Indians at McLeod, is a man of high character,
of the North-west Mounted Police, and Mr.
Packington, Indian agent, are acting energeti-
cally and with tact and kindness in their treat-
ment of the Bloods and Piegan."

The Saskatchewan Herald, of March 29,
1886, says:—

"A few days ago Assistant Commissioner Reed
went into the McLeod district—that being by im-
plication on the strength of the accusations,
"the wickedest of the North-west." He
called on the men who had condemned the offi-
cials to come forward with their proofs, and on
the authority of the McLeod Gazette we learn
that none of these charges were sustained. Jour-
nals, say the same paper, professing to have for
their mission the improvement of the social con-
dition of the people and the maintenance of
morals and good order in the Dominion, know-
ingly, persistently, slander honest men in their
efforts to score a point against their political
opponents."

The McLeod Gazette, to which refer-
ence is made in the above extract, said on that
occasion (March, 1886):—

"The visit of Mr. Reed to this district in
connection with the various charges made against
the Indian Department officials, &c., will un-
doubtedly be productive of much good. Mr.
Reed made a searching and impartial investiga-
tion into all the charges of corrupt practices
which were said to be going on at the present
time, going straight to those who had made the
charges. He is pleased to know that the result
of his investigation has shown that there were no
very glaring frauds being perpetrated upon the
Government by Indian Department officials.
There is altogether too much assumption in this
fraud business. People are only too willing to
believe that officials abuse the trust that is placed
in them by the Government. Pure supposition
gradually leads to a certainty that such is the
case, and the certainty is stated in public or
among the Indians know how necessary it is that
particular fraud refer to, they find it impos-
sible to do so, and fall back to the old supposition
ground again."

The Lethbridge Gazette, on the subject of
the investigation into the charges made in
the Mail's correspondence, says:—

"The result of it all was an official investiga-
tion, which, so far as we can learn, was very
thorough and impartial. Every man who made
accusations of dishonesty was given an oppor-
tunity of proving his statements. In no case do
we learn of any successful establishing of his
charges. At this we are not at all astonished.
We know the ins and outs of the matter and do
not believe that fraud exists. People living
among the Indians know how necessary it is that
the strictest good faith and honesty should be
preserved in their management, and would be the
first to notice and denounce frauds."

In the face of this mass of testimony—
testimony of the most reliable kind—it will
be admitted by all fair-minded men that
the second and last ground of attack upon
the Government in respect to Riel is false
and untenable.

The cause of the rebellion has yet to be
sought. That Riel was a natural born
agitator and rebel is admitted; that the
Opposition encouraged him to provoke a
rising against the Government will hardly
be denied; that so encouraged, he worked
upon the fancied wrongs and the religious
superstitions of his ignorant compatriots is
well known. In these facts lie, for the
most part, the cause of the Riel Rebellion.

Mr. Blake and his Party have, in re-
spect to the execution of Riel, acted a most
discreditable part. Had the Government
yielded to the solicitations of their
"Quebec Contingent" and pardoned Riel,
they would, with good reason, have de-
nounced the act as an "outrage upon jus-
tice." But the Government did not yield.
In spite of the strongest influences to the
contrary, they allowed justice to take its
course. And now Mr. Blake and his
Party are trying to win over the Quebec
Contingent, and to make people through-
out Canada believe that the Rebellion was
justifiable, by means of garbled reports and
groundless statements.

These be the statemen (?) in whom the
electors of the Dominion are asked to vest
the control of the Government!

The Scott Act Cases.

THREE Scott Act cases constituted the
docket at the Stipendiary Magistrate's Court
this forenoon.

The first called was that of an upper Queen
Street woman, adjourned from Monday last.
In this case, the defendant's counsel, Mr. A.
Peters, raised the point that the wife was not
liable inasmuch as her husband was living
at home. The evidence elicited
showed that the wife herself
had sold liquor at a time when her hus-
band was not present; that her husband was
half his time hiding at home and half his time
in the country evading arrest for the past two
months under a Scotch Act warrant for a third
offence. It was also sworn to by the bar-
tender that he (the bar-tender) had rented the
bar from the husband for \$140 a year. The
Magistrate gave written judgment that the
wife was liable, and that there was nothing in
the case to lead him to conclude that the
offence was committed in the presence of the
husband; he therefore convicted her under
section 109 of the Customs Temperance Act, of
a second offence and imposed a fine of \$100.

The defendant in the second case was also
an Upper Queen Street woman. The charge
was proven, and a sentence of three months'
imprisonment for a third offence ordered.

The third case called was that of a Sidney
Street man. The evidence was heard, and on
application of the defendant's counsel, Mr. E.
J. Hodgson, a postponement till this day
week was granted to argue some law points.

"Dear George," said a young woman, "I
am willing to marry you, if we have to
live on bread and water." "Well," said
the enthusiastic George, "you furnish the
bread, and I'll furnish the water and find
the water."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Erroneous Statements Refuted.

Sir.—While it is well, as a rule, to allow
disputes at public meetings to end there, yet,
when speakers floutly contradict each other, it
is due to the audience that the matter in de-
bate should be further ventilated.

At the meeting at Murray Harbor Road, on
Tuesday evening last, Mr. Davies made the
following statements:—

1. That in 1884 the Sullivan Government
spent \$3700 in putting new spouts to the Pro-
vincial Building, which expenditure, he said,
was for political purposes.

2. That his Government never spent a dol-
lar without a vote of parliament, and without
public sale and tender.

3. That the order of the Commissioner of
Public Works, dated Oct. 26, 1878, stopping
the drawing of road orders, was not sent to
all supervisors, but to one who had over-
drawn his account.

I contradicted every one of these statements
at the time, and to prove that I was right I
now ask you to publish the enclosed letter to
the Secretary of Public Works, together with
his reply thereto.

At the close of the meeting in reply to a
pointed remark by an elector, Mr. Davies
qualified the second statement quoted above
by saying that his total expenditure for 1878
did not exceed the estimates for that year by
a single dollar. I could not deal with that
statement on the spot, not having the esti-
mates for 1878 at my hand. I now find, how-
ever, that Mr. Davies was inaccurate in this
also. The estimates for 1878 are to be found
in appendix G. and I. to the journal for that
year. They amount to \$330,791.94, while the
expenditure as shown by the public accounts
reaches \$334,133.50, exclusive of the large
amounts paid on suspense in December, 1878,
and the still larger amounts carried forward to
1879.

These are only a few out of a great number
of equally unfounded statements made by Mr.
Davies at meetings which he attended at
Murray Harbor Road and Covehead during
the recent election.

I am, Yours etc.,

D. FERGUSON.

Nov. 17, 1886.

J. W. MORRISON, Esq., Secretary Public Works.

Dear Sir.—Will you please give me precise
statements on the following points:—

1st. What sum was paid in 1884, or at any time
within the last three years, for putting new
spouts on the Provincial Building?
2nd. Was the expenditure of \$4,000 on macadam-
izing in 1878 done by public sale or tender,
and was there a parliamentary vote for the same?
or, was the coal for the public buildings bought
by tender, or any other means of competition,
in the year 1878? Also, was there any other
work done, or sums paid, by the Government,
in 1878, without sale or tender?
3rd. Was your letter of Oct. 26th, 1878, forbid-
ding the drawing of road orders until the close
of the year, addressed to only one supervisor, or
to all the supervisors on the Island?
Please give the full text of that circular from
your press copy.

I am yours, &c.,

D. FERGUSON.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS,
Charlottetown, Nov. 16, 1886.

Hon. D. FERGUSON, Esq., &c.

Dear Sir.—In reply to your letter of yesterday's
date, enclosing a precise statement of the
points therein named, numbered 1, 2 and 3, I beg
to inform you that the sum of \$233.57 was the
total amount paid by the Department for repair-
ing valleys and roof gutters and new conductors,
&c., on the Provincial Building during the years
1878, 5 and 6.

2nd. The expenditure of \$14,232.43 on macadam-
izing in 1878 was not performed by public sale
or tender, except the approaches to Southport,
\$4369, and 340 tons stone for road at Mount
Stewart, \$297, and that there was not a Parlia-
mentary vote for the same. The coal for the Pub-
lic Buildings in 1878 was not paid for by tender
or any competition invited, and also there was other
work done and supplies purchased without sale
and tender in 187 and 8.

3rd. The following letter is a copy from the let-
ter book of this Department, and forwarded to
thirty-five Supervisors:—

OCTOBER 26, 1878.

Sir.—I am instructed by the Commissioner of
Public Works to inform you that your account is
overdrawn, and that you are not to draw during
the balance of the present year any further orders
without a special notice from this Department.
You will please attend to the above, as no fur-
ther orders will be paid.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Jno. Wm. MORRISON,
Secretary Public Works.

Mr. Alex. MacKay and 31 other Supervisors.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Jno. Wm. MORRISON,
Secretary Public Works.

NEW BUILDINGS.—The Summerside Pioneer
says:—"The following buildings were erected
here during the season: Mr. P. R. Baker
built a large warehouse with store front, and
the second story finished for a dwelling. A
few yards off Mr. James A. Sharp also built a
large warehouse, with store front and second
story finished and used as a dwelling. Be-
hind this Mr. Sharp has built a large two-
storey warehouse. Farther east on Water
Street Mr. R. Campbell built a two-storey
warehouse with store front. This is one of
the largest buildings in Summerside, and is
just finished. Farther east still, Mr. T. J.
Clark built and fitted out a mill (consisting of
two buildings connected) at an expense of (if
we remember correctly) \$6,000. On lower
Central Street, Messrs. Clark & Bowness built
and equipped one of the finest and most con-
venient photograph saloons in the Maritime
Provinces. Farther up the same street is Mr.
Gaffney's house, essentially a new building,
and one of the handsomest in the Province.
Opposite the Court House, Mr. R. McC.
Stavert has finished the outside of a very
handsome cottage, also a barn. On Second
Street, Mr. L. Morris has raised and fitted up
two dwelling houses; they are now both
occupied. (This building was put up last fall
but was not previously noticed by us.) On
Spring Street, Mr. Alan McKinnon (Campbell
& McKinnon) fitted up a neat cottage of 7 or
eight rooms. Except the two last mentioned,
the buildings are large and somewhat expen-
sive. Besides those mentioned, several build-
ings received additions, and others new roofs,
&c." It appears, on the evidence of the
Pioneer, that Summerside, at least, is not
going to ruin!

THE TURP.—What was expected to have
been a hotly contested race on Kingston Park,
Kent Co., N. B., Oct. 29, between D. P.
Gallant's chestnut mare Bactouche Beauty
and A. B. White's four-year-old bay colt, A.
B. Wallace, proved an easy victory for the
latter, winning in three straight heats.
Bactouche Beauty having won golden hooves
when defeating such horses as Flying Cloud,
Katie W., Dartmouth and others, and trotting
the 6th heat in 2:50 was thought to be a sure
winner; but A. B. Wallace, possessing the
good qualities of his sire, Sir William Wallace,
proved an easy victory for him. We also find
the handicap race of 14 miles on Moncton
Park on Saturday last won by Smuggler, and
the gentlemen driving race on same Park on
Dominion Day won by Lady W., both sired
by Sir William Wallace. The owners of that
horse are to be congratulated on the success
of his stock.—Pioneer.

MISS SAMIE WILSON, Charlottetown, re-
cently from New England Conservatory of
Music, Boston, is prepared to receive a limited
number of pupils on piano.

Nov. 14, 1886.—24ws bot

FUR GOODS.

LADIES'
Astracan Jackets,
Fur-lined Cloaks,
Fur Tippets,
Muffs, in,
Seal,
Beaver,
Otter,
Persian Lamb,
Astracan,
Monkey,
Belgian Seal, &c.

—ALSO—
A Full Line of Staple
and Fancy Dry Goods,
at Lowest Prices.

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