

did not say anything about it, and Colonel Dennis, who started in August, and was selected by Hon. Mr. McDougall, and was responsible to Mr. McDougall but neither of them had given the slightest intimation that there was to be any conflict or any serious interruption to the progress of the Canadian Government. And yet he was expected to find it out in a single day. The inhabitants were not savages.

Hon. Mr. McDougall—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Howe said the intelligence of the people was remarkable. The Bishop of Rupert's Land invited him to come to his house, and he found him a prelate of the highest character and intelligence, and his second man a hard-headed Scotchman, (laughter). They had Sabbath and day schools. He crossed the river and found in the Catholic diocese of St. Boniface the same intelligence and beautiful structures. He did not like the term half-breed, but they were told that because of that they were to be crushed down.

Hon. Mr. McDougall—Who said that?

Hon. Mr. Howe—I don't know, but we will assume that the idea is in some one's head, and is deserving of being crushed out. He thought at the time of the Norman Conquest that the English were half-breeds, but out of these mixtures came the noblest breeds. With regard to the system of two Chambers, as an individual member of the Government he would prefer a single Chamber if the people desired it; but in giving them two Chambers they were only giving them what was given to every British Colony, and would give the people of Manitoba no cause of complaint. Of course the Local Legislature would have power to do away with one Chamber if they did not want it. He would not undertake to say that perhaps two or three priests had not aided in the insurrection; but supposing that was so, the plain duty of the Government was to do what was right irrespective of the conduct of two or three priests. Let us not mar the glorious work of founding a Province, which would one day be an honour to the Empire, by any reference to each other's religion, (hear, hear). The hon. gentleman went on to defend the appointment of Captain Cameron, and intimated that had he owned or controlled a newspaper his conduct would have been regarded in a different light. With regard to the claims of the loyalists, he would state that this Government and Parliament might be trusted to do justice in a matter of this kind. All claims would have to be investigated before they were considered.

l'action du Gouvernement du Canada. Et pourtant, on lui demande de tout découvrir en un seul jour. Les habitants n'étaient pas des sauvages.

L'honorable M. McDougall—Bravo! Bravo!

L'honorable M. Howe fait remarquer que la population est d'une intelligence remarquable. L'évêque de la Terre de Rupert l'ayant invité chez lui, ce prélat lui apparut d'une force de caractère et d'une intelligence très vive, alors que son domestique n'était qu'un Écossais borné. (Éclats de rire.) La population bénéficiait des écoles dominicales et de l'externat. Il traversa le fleuve et retrouva dans le diocèse catholique de St-Boniface la même intelligence ainsi que les mêmes merveilleuses constructions. Il n'apprécie guère le terme Métis qui les condamne à l'anéantissement.

L'honorable M. McDougall—Qui a dit cela?

L'honorable M. Howe—Je n'en sais rien, mais nous présumons que cette idée trotte dans la tête de quelqu'un et doit en être expulsée. Il pense que, lors de la conquête normande, les Anglais étaient des Métis, mais tous ces mélanges ont engendré les races les plus nobles. Quant au bicamérisme, en tant que membre du Gouvernement, il préférerait la Chambre unique, si tel est le désir du peuple; mais en leur donnant deux Chambres, on leur donnait, en fait, ce que toute colonie britannique possédait, et on contentait du même coup les habitants du Manitoba. Évidemment, la législature provinciale pourrait liquider une Chambre si elle le désirait. Il n'ose confirmer que deux ou trois prêtres, peut-être, n'ont pas favorisé l'insurrection, mais si tel est le cas, le premier devoir du Gouvernement consiste à faire ce qui est juste, sans tenir compte de la conduite de deux ou trois prêtres. Ne ternissons pas notre glorieuse tâche de fondateur d'une province, qui, un jour, sera un fleuron de l'Empire, par des allusions aux religions des uns et des autres. (Bravo! Bravo!) L'honorable gentilhomme entreprend ensuite de défendre la mutation du capitaine Cameron et donne à entendre que s'il avait possédé ou contrôlé un journal, sa conduite eût été jugée différemment. En ce qui concerne les revendications des Loyalistes, il déclare que l'on peut faire confiance au Gouvernement et au Parlement pour rendre justice en pareil cas. Toutes les revendications devraient faire l'objet d'une enquête avant toute décision.