

ment—could not be carried into effect without causing remark and suggesting the inference that there were other reasons besides those alleged for so short-sighted a proceeding. The cutting off of these people was not a mere temporary expedient, but an arrangement which might last for years. In his opinion, all the settlements should be included in the new Province. At Portage la Prairie there were 3,000 settlers, and at the posts there were 200 settlers at the lowest computation. These should all come within, and be included in the Province of Manitoba. Setting that matter aside for the moment, he might further be permitted to remark that there seemed to him to be no necessity for a Legislature with two Chambers—an Upper and a Lower House—for 11,000 people—the balance of the whole population of 15,000, when la Prairie and the posts were left out of the question. Indeed, he very much doubted whether this House had authority under the Act of Confederation, to constitute an Upper Chamber. There did not seem to him to be the slightest necessity for two Houses, and he could not conceive it to be possible that two Senators should be permitted to so very few people as their representatives in the Upper House of the Dominion Parliament. The new Province, in his opinion, ought to embrace far wider limits than was intended, and, without the power of attaining his wishes in this respect, he could not resist the temptation of giving expression to his views upon what seemed to him to be a very important matter. There was one other matter to which he would allude before sitting down. Heretofore, in all his transactions, he had always found the hon. Minister of Militia liberal towards the whole English speaking race, and he (Mr. Ferguson) had never failed to defend him—and that too, at a time when his name did not stand so high in Ontario as it now does, when he was attacked. He admired the honourable gentleman for his undoubted pluck, public spirit and liberality, and only regretted that he could not now go so fully along with him in this measure as he could have desired. He had no hesitation in remarking further that he had, on excellent authority, ascertained that the origin of the outbreak was not attributable, as had been alleged, altogether to priestly influence. There were possibly some priests, who had from mistaken motives, taken part in the resistance to Canadian authority, but there were other parties besides Roman Catholic priests, who had no mean share in instigating the outbreak. He certainly trusted that the Bill was open to amendment, as unless it were so open, he could not afford to give it his support.

province englobe toutes les colonies. Portage la Prairie compte 3,000 colons et les postes totalisent au bas mot 200 personnes. Tous devraient être intégrés à la province du Manitoba. Ceci mis à part, qu'on lui permette de faire remarquer, qu'à ses yeux, rien ne justifie la création d'une législature constituée de deux Chambres—une Chambre haute et une Chambre basse—pour une population de 11,000 âmes, ce qui resterait sur 15,000 âmes une fois éliminés Portage la Prairie et les postes. Il est, de plus, fortement douteux que l'Acte de la Confédération confère à cette Chambre le droit de constituer une Chambre haute. Il ne voit aucunement l'utilité de deux Chambres, et il lui semble inconcevable que deux sénateurs représentent si peu de gens à la Chambre haute du Parlement de la Puissance. A son avis, la nouvelle province devrait embrasser une étendue beaucoup plus vaste que celle prévue, mais comme il ne détient pas les pouvoirs de réaliser ce qu'il souhaite, il ne peut résister à la tentation d'exprimer son point de vue sur un sujet qui lui semble de toute première importance. Il voudrait aborder un dernier point avant de se rasseoir. Jusqu'ici, dans toutes ses entreprises, l'honorable ministre de la Milice lui avait semblé témoigner d'un esprit libéral à l'endroit de la race anglophone et il (M. Ferguson) l'avait toujours défendu sans exception, même au moment où, étant en butte à des critiques, son nom, en Ontario, ne brillait pas du même éclat qu'aujourd'hui. Il a beaucoup d'admiration pour le courage incontesté de ce gentleman dans l'adversité, pour son sens civique et son libéralisme, mais son seul regret est qu'il ne puisse faire davantage cause commune avec lui dans cette affaire. De plus, il n'hésite pas à dire qu'il a appris de source sûre, que les débuts de la rébellion n'étaient pas, comme cela fut allégué, entièrement imputables à l'influence du clergé. Sans doute y a-t-il eu quelques prêtres qui, mûs par des intérêts mal compris, ont pris part à ce mouvement d'opposition à l'autorité canadienne, mais outre ces prêtres catholiques, d'autres groupes ont contribué pour une part non négligeable à fomenter la rébellion. Il veut croire qu'il est encore possible d'amender le projet de loi, sinon il se verrait dans l'impossibilité de l'appuyer.