

February 16, 1871

fight in our own quarrels. In our present position the feeling in favour of independence was spreading.

**Hon. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS** [excitedly]: No, no.

**Mr. MASSON (Terrebonne)**: Yes, yes. The feeling was spreading. He appealed to the Government if they wished to continue the connection with England, as he did to enlighten the House on the intention of the Imperial Government, for Mr. Cardwell, a member of that Government, had recently delivered a speech the argument of which was that the colonies should in future act for the defence of England, or be feeders and not suckers.

**Mr. MILLS** said the Federal system made it necessary that each Province should have an independent governmental existence. Such could not be given to any Province by this Parliament. He had called attention to this fact last year, and was glad the Minister of Justice had changed his views in this respect. (*Hear, hear.*) As to the murder of Scott, it was still competent for the Government of Canada to authorize the trial and punishment of Riel. The Minister of Justice had said that this Government had no power to cause the arrest of the murderers of Scott. This was not so. The Hudson's Bay Company were bound by the Imperial Government to transfer to Canada, for trial and punishment, persons guilty of higher crimes than misdemeanour. It was still competent for the Government of Canada to authorize the trial and punishment of Riel, and it was

also competent for the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba to ask for extradition.

The second paragraph of the address was agreed to.

**Hon. Mr. DORION** on the proposal of the adoption of the paragraph relating to the admission of British Columbia, protested that he knew nothing of the merits of the terms of this admission, and declared his unwillingness to express blindfold any concurrence in the Government's Pacific Railway scheme. If it was to be one of the character of the Intercolonial Railway, he would give it his strenuous opposition. He could not approve of the wording of the paragraph.

**Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** consented to a verbal alteration to meet the objection of the last speaker. The change was of a non-committal character, and thus modified, the clause was adopted.

The remaining paragraphs were read and concurred in without debate, and the address, being read a second time, was agreed to.

After the usual formal resolutions in regard to the address and its presentation, **Hon. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD** gave notice of an address of congratulation to Lord Lisgar on the distinguished honour recently conferred upon him by Her Majesty.

The House adjourned at a quarter past nine.