

Hon. Mr. CAMERON said that in common with himself no doubt the whole assemblage must have been very much delighted with the very eloquent remarks that had been made by the hon. member for South Bruce in introducing the subject to the consideration of the House. While, however, he was willing to give the hon. member the credit which he always deserved for the manner in which he placed his motions before the House, he at the same time could not help thinking that he had taken a most injudicious course in introducing this question for their consideration at this time. (Hear.) He was at a loss to understand why the motion was introduced. It did not require the action of the Legislature. If the offence of this man Riel was one within the jurisdiction and control of the Province of Ontario—if the hon. gentleman meant by his resolution to pass a censure upon the Government of Ontario, because it had not taken measures for the extradition of Riel, it would have been better if he had so framed his resolutions at once. The offence that had been committed was an offence beyond the jurisdiction of Ontario. And Ontario had no power to deal with it, nor was it the duty of Ontario to deal with it. (Hear, hear.) It was not the duty of Ontario to determine whether it was an offence of a political character, or was a bold, blood-thirsty, and deliberate murder. The man Riel and his associates were up in arms not against the Province of Ontario, but against Her Majesty the Queen. The people of Ontario were not backward in their desire and determination to assert the supremacy of the British Crown over every part of British North America. Meetings were held throughout the length and breadth of the land. He had the honour of attending one in the city of Toronto, where public expression was given to the outraged feelings of the Province in consequence of the course which had been pursued in the new province of Manitoba. But the hon. gentleman seemed to think that it was his special province and function to censure the Government at Ottawa on every occasion that was presented to him, and he could not allow any occasion to pass without doing so. Consequently on the present occasion he had treated the House to a review of the legislation in reference to Manitoba, beginning the review by almost justifying the course—

Mr. BLAKE—Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CAMERON—Yes, of this man Riel, and then almost immediately afterwards most inconsistently denounced the man as a murderer of the blackest description. If the conduct of the Government of Canada had justified the arming of the people, then Riel was only defending his political rights; but he (Mr. Cameron) assumed that the Government of the Dominion acted in this matter, as well as in other matters, prudently and judiciously—perhaps with very much more judiciousness than the honourable gentleman and those associated with him would have acted if they had been placed in the same trying circumstances. He had always regarded the act of Riel as a cold-blooded and deliberate murder, and he had never hesitated so to express himself; but so thinking he was not of opinion that the hon. gentleman was doing well in now introducing the subject for the consideration of the House. To what end was the motion? Had the hon. gentleman ever taken the trouble individually to enquire whether this man Riel could be extradited? Had he ever