

House one would be led to believe that the Protestant people in the province of Quebec are being ill-treated. Well, here is the answer I have to give to the Huntingdon 'Gleaner'; I shall quote the words of the Hon. Mr. Weir, a man of high standing in the province of Quebec, and a representative of the Protestant people in the Quebec cabinet. Mr. Weir spoke at a public meeting in Montreal; he spoke when he was not asked to deal with the question, when he was not solicited to say a word in reference to it, and here is what Mr. Weir said:

I, being the son of a Scotch father and a Scotch mother. I, a Protestant, have always in this province seen not only our rights but our remotest wishes respected. I challenge any Protestant to say, that he has ever been ill-treated. And therefore, when in the province of Ontario we see politicians and bigots appealing to racial and religious prejudices in order to deprive the minority of the rights to which they are constitutionally and logically entitled, it is our imperative duty to cry shame, and to stigmatize them.

Let me refer for a moment or two to some of what I shall call, the exaggerations of language in the newspapers of Ontario, and Quebec also—for there are bigots in both provinces. Here is what the Toronto 'News' writes:

It is not conceivable that Sir Wilfrid Laurier, much less the Protestant members of his cabinet believe they are acting in accordance with the spirit of the constitution. That they have submitted themselves to the will of the hierarchy of Quebec is the only reasonable explanation of their conduct.

I will give you the answer to that from 'L'Événement' of Quebec, an organ of the Conservative party; the leading organ of the Conservative party in the district of Quebec. 'L'Événement' writes:

No, no. It is not the free denominational schools that Sir Wilfrid Laurier guaranteed to the Catholic and French minority of the Territories; it is the neutral schools which are slaves of the state. This is the truth, the cruel truth, the truth undeniable and manifest.

The Toronto 'World,' the organ of my right hon. friend—not my right hon. friend, but my hon. friend from South York, I shall quote from it. I must say, Mr. Speaker, that I had great trouble in finding a clipping from the Toronto 'World' that I could, with any sense of decency, quote to the House, when that paper writes against the province of Quebec. I have been looking through its columns for some time and hardly could I put my finger upon a few lines which would be quotable in this House, but few as they are I will read them. The Toronto 'World' says:

The new provinces are to be stripped of their public lands and compelled to submit to an educational system modelled under the artistic direction of the Quebec hierarchy.

Let me give my hon. friend from South York the answer from 'L'Événement,' that same Conservative newspaper in Quebec, which writing of Sir Wilfrid Laurier says:

When one has seventy of a majority, he does his duty or he falls on the field of honour. He does not need to betray to remain in power.

And when 'L'Événement' talks of betraying, it does not talk of betraying Protestants; it is surely talking of Sir Wilfrid Laurier betraying Catholics. But there is something more serious than all that. This afternoon I heard the member for East Grey say very plainly: it is about time that we should have some proof of that toleration in the province of Quebec which is so much talked of. Well, I will try to give the hon. gentleman a few proofs of that toleration of ours. The hon. gentleman will admit that in the province of Quebec—

An hon. MEMBER. He will not admit it.

Mr. BELAND. My hon. friend who sits beside me says that he will not admit it, but the member for East Grey is fair, and that being so I am sure that when he hears what I have to say he will stand up and declare that he was mistaken—honestly mistaken, but mistaken just the same. Let the hon. gentleman (Mr. Sproule) listen. In this House we have twelve Protestant members from the province of Quebec. We have one from Argenteuil, a county in which the Protestant population is 7,800 and the Catholic population 8,100. The division of Montreal, St. Antoine, represented by my good friend Mr. Bickerdike—

An hon. MEMBER. Mr. Ames.

Mr. BELAND. Yes, represented by Mr. Ames, and I can still call him my good friend I hope. In Montreal, St. Antoine, the Protestant population is 22,000 and the Catholic population is 24,000. The county of Chateauguay, represented here by my good friend Mr. Brown, has a Protestant population of 3,000 and a Catholic population of 12,500. The county of Compton, represented here by my good friend Mr. Hunt, has a Protestant population of 10,500 and a Catholic population of 15,000. The county of Huntingdon, the very county in which that newspaper which has been quoted by my hon. friend from East Grey is published, has a Protestant population of 6,620, and a Catholic population of 7,200, and the Catholic majority sends a Protestant representative to this House in the person of my hon. friend Mr. Walsh. But this is not all. I want to make the proof of our toleration so convincing that my hon. friend will feel obliged to stand up and admit it if he wants to be fair. The county of Missisquoi, with a Protestant population of 8,000 and a Catholic population of 10,000, sends