

tle men had been fed on injustice for years and years they rebelled against the Crown and pelted the governor because he had granted a measure of justice to the French Canadians; and immediately after that they issued an annexation manifesto. Some French Canadians signed it and others were disposed to sign it. Again came the obnoxious power of the hierarchy who told the people of Canada: 'No, be true and loyal, the day of justice is beginning to dawn and it will come by and by.' Later on when Confederation was being discussed it was not entirely acceptable to the people of Quebec. They had some suspicion of the treatment they might receive at the hands of the English speaking majority which up to that moment had not been such as to give them much confidence for the future. Again the hierarchy stood up and asked the people of Quebec to accept the compact which had been entered into. Has the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) and his colleagues of the same—might I say hierarchy or sect? no, of the same group of thought, if there is any thought in that group—have these gentlemen ever reflected on that point?

Mr. SPROULE. Heap it on strong.

Mr. BOURASSA. They have, I think, one group of allies in Quebec. There has been for many years past a small anti-clerical party that has been using all these arguments against the domination of the priests, against the power of the hierarchy, but what has been their aim and object? It has always been to throw down the British flag; and the great grievance they have against the bishops is that the bishops prevented us from joining the United States in 1774, again in 1812, and opposed the rebellion of 1837, supported British supremacy in 1849 and induced us to accept confederation. When newspapers in Ontario are filling their sheets with attacks and insults on the hierarchy they are simply insulting the men who, for 100 years have been the bulwark of British government in Canada. If there was any sincerity in these men, who are the great apostles and preachers of loyalty, they should feel ashamed of the attack they are now launching on the Catholic bishops of Canada, because when they attack the hierarchy they attack the party that has always stood by the British Crown, that has always stood by law, that has always stood by the flag that has given us the basis of a nation in this country.

Coming back to the point where I left my argument, it is just as well to realize the position in which we are. When you speak of the liberty granted to the Roman Catholic to go into a non-sectarian school there is no such thing as liberty. He may abide by the law if he be forced to send his child to such a school, but his religious liberty is interfered with. When, by any measure in this House or in any provincial parliament,

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you force a Roman Catholic to send his children to a non-sectarian school, you are committing an act of injustice just as direct, just as much against the conscience of the Roman Catholic, as if you would force the Protestant minority in the province of Quebec to contribute to Roman Catholic denominational schools. This is the position urged upon and this is what was acknowledged frankly by Lord Watson, Lord Morris and Lord Herschell. May I say that there should be in this House a little more of that broad British spirit of tolerance, so that at last when we come to judge the feelings and the convictions of our fellow-citizens we should not trample on their feelings and override their convictions—we should endeavour to know the convictions of their hearts and to learn their thoughts?

Sir, there is no solid ground left for those who are opposing this legislation as far as school matters are concerned. There is just one ground; it may be a good one for some, but on the whole it is not a lasting one; and that is the right of might. If the rule is to be laid down that there is to be one law to protect the Protestant minority of the province of Quebec, and that the same law shall not apply to Catholic minorities elsewhere, so far, so good! But let men be strong enough to stand up here and say: 'No, the Catholics of the western provinces cannot enjoy in the west what the Protestants enjoy in Quebec, because, on the one hand, they are Catholic and on the other hand they are Protestants.' Let a statesman be strong enough to stand up in the House and say that, and he will strike the root of this question of legislation. There was only one man who came near that point, and I acknowledge his sincerity. It was the hon. member for Brandon the late Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton).

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. BOURASSA. Sir, on this ground, I know my words are useless. I know that I probably represent the views of very few men in this House, but there is one thing I would like to impress upon the minds of my Protestant English speaking fellow members. It is that when one party gets up and says that justice cannot be done to the Roman Catholics in the Northwest and another party gets up and says there must be only a scant measure of justice because it cannot afford to have the people accept a full measure of justice, allow me to say that I think the good people of Ontario are not fairly represented in this House.

An hon. MEMBER. Bosh.

Mr. BOURASSA. I cannot believe that if any member in this House would go to his constituency, even the member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule)—although I think the great process with that hon. gentleman would be to bring his mind to the point of understanding the question—I do not be-