

know that the Liberal party in this country hold, and it is of the essential principles of Liberalism, that while the majority must rule, the rights, privileges and feelings of the minority must be always carefully considered and carefully reckoned with in all that the majority does.

Now, Sir, a word as to separate schools—and I repeat again quite frankly, as I said in my opening remarks, that I believe in separate schools in Canada. I believe that in our conditions and circumstances here in Canada, it is necessary that those who have different views and ideas in regard to education and in regard to what education implies, should have those views respected; and if there is a large section of our people who believe that it is necessary that religion should be taught in the schools, they ought to have the opportunity and the advantage of having religion taught in their schools if they wish it. I say this with the experience of a Quebec man, who perhaps knows a little more about the operation of a complete system of separate schools than people in other parts of Canada. We have in Quebec the most complete and absolute separation of the two systems of school education that exists in any part of Canada. We have a good deal of knowledge of its working and its results, and I venture to say, as one who enjoys the privilege of separate schools in the province of Quebec, that we would consider ourselves very much ill-treated if any jot or tittle of that privilege should be withdrawn from us. There has been some curiosity as to its results. I remember, in the early part of this debate, the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) read an article from the *Huntingdon 'Gleaner'*, I think it was, in which that little paper attributed the immigration of Protestants from the province of Quebec to the unfortunate school system there, and seemed to endorse the idea that the Protestants were leaving the province of Quebec and going away because they could not get education for their children. Without in any way wishing to impugn the authority of the *Huntingdon 'Gleaner'*, I would venture to say that I and others on the floor of this House can speak with as great authority as the editor of that paper as to the rights, privileges and conditions of the minority in the province of Quebec, and I would say this. My hon. friend from East Grey gave us an extraordinary history of what he called a system on the part of the Catholic Church in the province of Quebec for aiding this exodus of Protestant farmers from the province. My hon. friend, I believe, did that in full honesty. I have no doubt that he really believed that extraordinary story, and I would tell the hon. gentleman a little story which I heard myself once. I did not believe it, I was not so credulous as my hon. friend; but I can put it about on a par

with the story which my hon. friend retailed to the House of this alleged scheme of the Catholic Church to get rid of the Protestant minority in the province of Quebec. The story I heard was of some Orangemen of the county of Hastings in the province of Ontario. I was told at the time of the Jesuits' Estates agitation that a number of the members of the Orange lodges there went to bed every night with loaded rifles under their pillows because they feared an invasion from the Catholics of Quebec to down the Orangemen of the province of Ontario. I say I was not so credulous as my hon. friend, and I did not believe the story.

Mr. SPROULE. Somebody must have been telling the hon. gentleman fairy tales to put him to sleep.

Mr. FISHER. Just about the kind of fairy tale that my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) detailed to the House in regard to the efforts of the Catholic Church to get rid of the Protestant minority in the province of Quebec. I did not go to sleep because I did not believe the story, but my hon. friend, if he went to sleep, believed the story and retailed it here with honest conviction and showed how credulous he was. I think it would have been better for him to appreciate and understand the people of his own country a little better and to have, like myself, not believed the story which I heard. The hon. gentleman gave us that story and said, quoting the *Huntingdon 'Gleaner'*, that the Protestants of Quebec were leaving that province. I take direct issue with that statement. It is true that some Protestants of Quebec have been leaving their farms and going away, but it is equally true that Protestants from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have been going away. I know a good deal about the New England states and I know that in Boston and other large cities there is a large number of the flower of the youth of the maritime provinces, just as in these cities there is a very large number of the flower of the youth of the eastern townships of Quebec. They have gone to the eastern states from provinces where there is a Protestant majority just as they have gone from Quebec where there is a Roman Catholic majority and they were in a small minority. They went because of the fiscal policy of the government preceding ours in this country, which drove so many people out of Canada to seek a fortune in the United States and which depleted the people of our country unfortunately for so many years. It is not only the English-speaking Protestants of the eastern provinces, the maritime provinces and Ontario who have gone to the United States; the French Canadians of the province of Quebec have gone there in numbers four, five, six and even seven times those of the Protestants who have gone. These