

gentleman in the hope that he may carry them beyond the precincts of this House.

To be candid Mr. Speaker, and I wish to be candid, I regret that separate schools exist in Canada to-day, I regret that they exist in the province of Quebec, and for this reason; that Protestant and Catholic boys meet for the first time in the struggle of life only after their education has been completed, and after having been kept apart during the best years of their life. I regret it also for the reason that I do not think that two languages are too much for any child to acquire, especially if those languages are the tongues of our two national mothers. England and La Bule France. In almost every county of Quebec there are teachers with a salary ranging from \$60 to \$120 a year, teaching a school year of 10 months. What qualifications can you expect in a teacher receiving such a miserable pittance as that? I noticed an article in a Township paper some time ago describing a very happy state of affairs that is to come into force in parts of the counties of Drummond and Athabasca, and this will be of interest to the First Minister, as that was his old constituency before he found the air of Quebec more bracing and salubrious. Here Catholics and Protestants, unable to support two systems of schools, are united in a common school. I have extracts from two papers in the eastern townships giving a description of the meetings which were held at Kingsey village in one of those counties on that subject. At one, Mr. Parmelee, secretary of the Protestant committee:

Gave a most interesting account of the working of consolidated schools in Massachusetts and elsewhere during the last thirty years, and pointed out the notable fact that although in nearly ever case provision had been made for reversal to the old way, if the new way proved impracticable, there had not been a single case of going back.

This, Mr. Speaker, I think is a consummation devoutly to be wished, a school system under which all creeds and races would grow up together, forgetting the prejudices which have kept their fathers apart, if not at enmity with one another, and which would enable them to meet on a common ground of union and Canadian citizenship. My reason for objecting to separate schools lies in the fact that the differences do not stop at separate schools, but that the lines drawn by these divisions extend to all walks of business and social life and strike at the root of that great national spirit which it should be the true aim of every loyal Canadian to foster and maintain. It means the perpetuation of national societies and benevolent organizations on religious lines; it means fête days, street parades of one section or society equally objectionable to the susceptible imagination of one party as the other. National schools do not mean Protestant schools and should, in my opinion, be conducted by the laity. Therefore I

Mr. WORTHINGTON.

say in the working out of the destiny of this great country, of this nation, and I believe I have the highest authority in this House when I speak of Canada as a nation. For the Prime Minister has described how when in the mother land, some years ago he was presented one bright morning with a babe in swaddling clothes, which proved to be young Canada destined to be known henceforth among the peoples of the world as a nation, whereas the happy parent, on the evening preceding this momentous event, in utter ignorance of his condition, (immaculate, I trust) had 'drawn the drapery of his couch about him and lain down to pleasant dreams.' Therefore, I say, in working out the destiny of this young nation we should endeavour to forget our different origins. I know it is hard to forget one's origin, but I believe that in so far as it is possible these ties and traditions should be forgotten and relegated to oblivion. We should endeavour to forget the distinctions which have divided us in the past, and should strive to be known only as Canadians. For my part I would be sorry to see the 17th of March go by without wearing a sprig of shamrock in honour of the patron saint of Emerald Isle, but beyond these annual tokens of respect, we should endeavour to forget our different origins. The Minister of Finance, with wonderful descriptive power, has painted the picture of a visit he made to a school in Nova Scotia conducted by a reverend sister of some holy order, on whose bosom there hung a crucifix. In the course of his speech he said:

The Prime Minister once when in Halifax visited one of these schools and he alluded to it as a separate school, and one of the sisters interrupted him and said: No, Sir, it is a public school of the province of Nova Scotia. And so it was, but it was a school which was recognized as a Roman Catholic school and it was attended only by Roman Catholic pupils and it was taught by the Roman Catholic sister of charity wearing the garb of her order and the cross upon her breast. We have made concessions to our Roman Catholic brethren in the province of Nova Scotia.

Evidently the Minister of Finance thinks the Roman Catholic minority of that province has no rights, evidently he was much struck with what happened on that visit. But I can assure him that it is an every day occurrence in the province of Quebec where Protestant girls attend Roman Catholic convents and where Roman Catholic boys attend Protestant schools, and vice versa. The hon. gentleman goes on to say in another connection:

If my right hon. friend should retire on an issue like this, then the only thing that could possibly happen, if my hon. friend the leader of the opposition should agree to form a government at such a time, would be that he must form a Protestant government and he must have a general election.