

tion to get a leader. If those gentlemen who sing the song of Ontario so smoothly think their province is the premier one, how is it that they cannot scare up a leader from among the men they send to this House?

All this excitement, all this religious flame that my hon. friend speaks about, comes from the allegation that the claim of the province of Manitoba to have its boundaries enlarged was not conceded by the Dominion government the moment it was asserted, because there was interference from the Papal ablegate in this country. That is the charge in a nutshell, and I want to examine it for a moment. The attitude assumed by our friends from Manitoba is a most dictatorial one. Without saying a word with regard to the question of having an enlargement of their boundaries for a long period of years, they suddenly woke up on the 16th of January last and said they wanted to have their boundaries extended west, north and east, cutting into one province, assuming a large portion of territory in another, and taking out of the new provinces to be constructed a third portion of territory. They want to have it done right away, not a moment of hesitation. No interests are to be considered, even the interests of the province of Ontario are to be disregarded, and I assume that the hon. member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) is one of those who agree with the proposition that although Premier Whitney may think they have some claims, yet they are not to be considered at all by this coterie of politicians that happen to be in charge and who are just now demanding it. Let me say, as coming from one of the smaller provinces of the Dominion, that they also have a right to be considered in regard to this subject. The legislature of the province of New Brunswick, minor in size, though important as a factor in the confederation, no later than a month ago passed a strong resolution in which they represented to the federal government that on this question of the accretion of the provinces the rights of the smaller provinces should be considered. We hear about Manitoba being a postage stamp on the map. Well, we who come from Nova Scotia, although it may be a postage stamp on the map, we come as one of the partners in this confederation, and we say that we have the same interest as New Brunswick to be considered before any addition is made to the territory of any province. Let me remind you, Mr. Speaker, that the province of New Brunswick, through their legislature, asserted no less than a month ago that by reason of the accretion of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec which was made a few years ago, their position, as regards their representation in this House has been imperilled, according to the decision of the Supreme Court and the Privy Council, for all time to come. The

same thing may occur in regard to Manitoba. And are we to be told that this government who were asked on the 17th of February to add to the territory of Manitoba, because they took four days to answer it, and answered it in this House, are doing this at the dictation of the hierarchy and of the Papal ablegate to this country? I say that the federal government would be recreant to the interests of every province in this Dominion if they did not hesitate long and seriously before they decided to increase the province of Manitoba or any other province by one foot of territory. Now these are the facts upon which these gentlemen base the proposition that because they did not get, in four days time, what they asked for, that therefore there is some interference from outside. Our friends opposite grow almost hysterical over the failure of the government to grant these demands, which every one of them, on deliberation, will concede are demands that should be well weighed as affecting the rights and status of every province in this confederation.

Now let us examine somewhat critically the position of affairs in regard to this whole question over which the hon. member for South York spoke so excitedly. In the province of Manitoba the premier has been negotiating for some time with Archbishop Langevin in regard to the position of separate schools in that province. It is evident that these negotiations conducted through Archbishop Langevin have reached the Papal ablegate. These negotiations were initiated by the Manitoba government some time ago and Mr. Campbell, the Attorney General of Manitoba, had an interview with the Papal ablegate with regard to this question. Were they initiated by this government, or even at the suggestion of this government? The statement of facts that has been issued by this buccaneer member of the Manitoba government do not contain the faintest suggestion that these negotiations were initiated by any member of this government. On the contrary, we have the fact stated that the Attorney General of Manitoba consulted with the ablegate a year ago; we have the fact asserted and not denied that negotiations have been going on for a long time between the premier of Manitoba and Archbishop Langevin on behalf of the Papal ablegate. Now these gentlemen come down to Ottawa of their own accord, at their own suggestion. Who asked them to come? Did this government ask them to come? On the contrary, the correspondence laid before the House last night by the First Minister showed conclusively that when these gentlemen woke up on the 16th of January they wrote to Sir Wilfrid Laurier and asked that they might be permitted to come down and discuss this question.