

In all we have there enumerated 21 denominations. Amongst these we have Protestants 11,612 and there are in addition unspecified sects representing a population of 48,247. The right hon. gentleman, to whom I have already referred, went on to show that inasmuch as the differences between the Protestants were small as compared with one another, while the differences between Roman Catholics and Protestants were great, he could properly divide this country into two great classes—Roman Catholics and Dissident sects, the latter, as mentioned by the hon. Solicitor General (Mr. Lemieux) composing over 60 per cent of the population. Now, surely that is a strange class of reasoning. Here we find that the Roman Catholic Church is put down in the census as containing almost three times as many adherents as the largest of the other denominations in Canada. By what class of reasoning, by what right of reasoning can hon. gentlemen opposite say: We are the minority? I say that the Roman Catholics of this country are the majority, the vast majority as is proved by a careful examination of the returns showing the populations of the various denominations. Now I think that all this sympathy that hon. gentlemen opposite are working up in regard to minorities is a farce. This is an argument that has led many hon. gentlemen astray in discussing this question. They have said: Let us consider the views of the minority; let us guard and safeguard the interests of the minority. The right hon. First Minister, after having set apart these 2,200,000 of his Roman Catholic fellow-citizens on the one side, goes on and puts the other 60 per cents together classing them as dissident sects, classing them as Protestants, and telling us there is very little difference between us. It will make interesting reading for our Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Anglican and Congregational friends to tell them that there is very little difference between them and the Doukhobors, Mennonites and all those other religions contained in the list that I have read, many of them so peculiar that they cannot even be specified. The right hon. gentleman places the 60 per cent all in a common lot, he casts us together into one common scrap heap to fight it out while the other 40 per cent, forming the vast majority of any one denomination in this country, in solid phalanx march forward taking every advantage, as they know they do, of that solidity which no church or no denomination in this country possesses to the extent that the Roman Catholic Church does. That is the view that hon. gentlemen opposite should take if they want to debate this question from a standpoint that will appeal to the different denominations of this country. Let us cast aside this fallacious argument of consideration for the minority. I say it is no min-

Mr. COCKSHUTT.

ority. Do not shut your eyes to that fact. I am here to say and I say it in admiration of that church, which I believe to be the most zealous and the most earnest of churches, that day in and day out, night in and night out the fires on the Roman Catholic altar truly, figuratively and genuinely may be said to never be extinguished, to never go out and this fact is symbolic of the church itself. It has a united front, an irresistible front, and the fact that it is marching through this country conquering and to conquer shows to me and shows to you that it does not need consideration as a feeble minority. That is the view in so far as I understand it that is held by many of the Protestant denominations of Ontario. It may be right in your estimation, or it may be wrong, but I give it as my genuine conviction that in so far as minorities are concerned, if that is the only ground upon which you make your appeal, there is not a single denomination amongst those contained in the list in this census book which is less entitled to consideration than those for whom so much has been said on this occasion. They are not feeble, they are not weak, and therefore, this argument in regard to extending to them a tolerance and a forbearance that would not be extended to other bodies in this country is not one which is well founded, and I believe that hon. gentlemen opposite have fallen into a worse error because they have based their arguments upon false premises and have therefore been led to false conclusions.

That, so far as I understand, is in a nutshell the attitude of the Protestant denominations of Ontario. It has been charged across the floor of this House, that Ontario is exhibiting intolerance. For my part I believe that charge to be false. I believe the same tolerance exists in Ontario to-day as has always existed, and as has always been extended to the people of all religious convictions. That tolerance is just as marked to-day in Ontario as ever it was, so that it is neither right nor just that a charge of intolerance should be levied against my native province. Why are the English-speaking members of the cabinet from Ontario silent, when they hear this aspersion cast on the province they are supposed to represent? Why are they not on their feet to defend Ontario? Who have we in the cabinet from the province of Ontario to repel these insults? The Postmaster General and the Minister of Customs are the only members who seem to grace the seats of this House as representing Ontario; the most populous province in the Dominion, the province that pays almost one-half the taxes of this country. When the most important legislation that has probably ever been submitted to parliament is being discussed, we find that these two ministers in their speeches have taken the part against Ontario. The Postmaster General treated