

justice at the hands of this parliament. Blackstone's theory is that the king represents power, the senators represent wisdom, and the commoners represent good intentions. I can only say that the stand I take on this question before this House is taken because I believe I am in the right. We approach this subject with a certain amount of reluctance, but we would be weak men, men not worthy of being called Canadians were we to shirk our duties in big things or in little things, but especially a responsibility so great as the present one. Let us have a due regard for the honour and interest of our mighty nation, and debate this subject in a broad and patriotic spirit. Let us not deceive ourselves as to the importance of our task. I therefore urge on the government to be strong, to do what is right by the new provinces in education; and if they do, they will support this amendment.

No matter how we vote on this question, we will be criticised and condemned or approved of; but if we are doing what we believe to be right we need not fear criticism. Canada possesses a large and ever increasing number of citizens who recognize that it is the duty of members of parliament not only to be faithful to their duties in this House, advocating what we believe to be right, fearlessly and conscientiously, but to have principles, and be not afraid to maintain them. Let us guard not only the resources of Canada, but let us guard her schools, and her education. Compromise in this measure is out of the question. Narrow politicians and papers may be satisfied by it, but the people will not; it will not satisfy and settle the question. There is only one thing to do and that is to eliminate the clause as proposed by the leader of the opposition. Let Saskatchewan and Alberta make their own laws with regard to education and work out their own destiny. The government would gladly seek refuge behind any weak subterfuge that may present itself. When ten years ago this same party were fighting for provincial rights, the people who are condemning them to-day were upholding them. In this land every important piece of legislation such as this turns on the will of the House of Commons, we are responsible to the people, and the people rule. If this body misconduct itself, we can refer the matter to the people and their decision will be final. Napoleon said that people grow old quickly on fields of battle. But my impression is that governments grow old more quickly in battle fields of parliaments. The present government is dying at the top, many of the strong men of this government have left it within the past few years, and weaker men have taken their places.

If we the men in opposition to the educational clauses are defeated in the amendment now before this House, all we can do is to say to the people of Canada: Forgive us; we have done everything humanly pos-

sible to convince the government of this country of their responsibility to the people; they have ignored our protest, laughed at our fewness in number, taunted our weakness. The people returned this government to power with a mighty majority last November. They brought down this Bill, brow beat and lashed their followers into line, and to-day are practically ready to defy the majority of the people of Canada. We have appealed to their wisdom, we have appealed to their patriotism and their manly independence. These appeals have been flung to the winds, and to-day they stand ready to brand the great west for all generations, with what at best must be a running sore that will eat into its very vitals.

Mr. Speaker, I do not despair of my country, we are not at the mercy of any waves of chance. We may think our civilization is near its meridian, but we are yet only at the cock crowing and the morning star. Let us then guard well our country's laws, guard well our rights and privileges, and let us all join in singing Canada our home, Canada the land we love the best. Let us look ahead not ten years, or twenty years, but fifty years, and see not five hundred thousand souls, or five million souls, but ten million souls, who will inhabit these boundless prairies for which the speech of England has no name.

I appeal to hon. members to vote for the amendment and carry it. Then will die sectarian strife in Canada, and we will go on forging out the great destiny for which we have been created. In the name of peace and harmony I beg of this government not to force this measure through the House in its present form, but to amend it as proposed by the leader of the opposition.

Again I appeal to every member of this House, on broad patriotic grounds of citizenship, to assist us in carrying this amendment. The greater half of this continent is ours, ours to build up, ours to maintain, ours to cement together with a bond of the races, ours to destroy. Let us not at the dawning of a greater Canada, hamper its growth, retard its progress, and blight its future. Let us build up its educational institutions, its industries, and its commerce, develop its mines, its woodlands, and its agriculture, and thus place her in the foremost race of the nations of the world.

Mr. D. W. BOLE (Winnipeg). I desire, Mr. Speaker, to engage the attention of the House a short time, and will preface my remarks by saying that I am very happy indeed to follow the hon. gentleman from East Lambton (Mr. Armstrong), the riding of my birth, which I left 25 years ago in order to make my home in that great country of which we have heard so much the last few weeks. My hon. friend addressed himself most severely to some remarks by the hon. member for Colchester (Mr. Laurence) regarding the position oc-

Mr. ARMSTRONG.