

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I rise, Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of supporting the motion which my right hon. friend the Prime Minister has made. The emotion which the right hon. gentleman has displayed has indicated to the House more eloquently than even his eloquent words could have done the very great loss which he feels he has sustained on this occasion. Let me say on behalf of this side of the House that all of us join most sincerely in the deep sympathy which I know every gentleman on the other side feels for the family of Mr. Sutherland in their bereavement, and especially for the Prime Minister of this country, whose true and valued friend Mr. Sutherland has been so many years. I had the privilege of knowing that gentleman when I first came into parliament in 1896. He was then an old member of parliament and I a young and inexperienced member. I always met at his hands the greatest kindness and cordiality. Afterwards, in my later acquaintance with public life, I met him on many trying and difficult occasions, particularly the occasion when he and I were members of a committee two years ago, to which was entrusted the duty of making a redistribution of the seats in the province of Ontario. And although there was a certain feeling at that time which might have led to some display of temper on the one hand or the other, I can say, with grateful recollection, that Mr. Sutherland and I, at the conclusion of a very difficult and trying investigation, parted just as good friends as we were when that began. I repeat that on this side we extend our most cordial and heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family of our late friend and to hon. gentlemen opposite, who, by his death, have sustained so great a loss. We on this side realize fully the loss which the House and the country have sustained. In the death of Mr. Sutherland Canada has lost a public man, not only of great experience, but, as I have always believed, of very great executive ability indeed. I feel that I have the hearty sympathy and support of every gentleman on this side of the House in the words I have uttered and in my support of the motion of the right hon. gentleman.

Motion agreed to.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST.

House resumed adjourned debate on the proposed motion of Sir Wilfrid Laurier for the second reading of Bill (No. 69) to establish and provide for the government of the province of Alberta, and the amendment of Mr. R. L. Borden thereto.

Hon. CHARLES FITZPATRICK (Minister of Justice). Mr. Speaker, much has been said and much more written since this Bill was first introduced which, in the inter-

est of peace and harmony, aye, which, in the interest of truth and justice, might better have been left unsaid and unwritten. I hasten to add that, having followed closely the debate in this House and heard or read all the speeches, I must admit at once that, due allowance being made for the heat and exaggerated language which appear to be inseparable from our political debates, with perhaps two or three exceptions, no speech has been made here which could offend the ears of even the most sensitive among us. I must of necessity, Mr. Speaker, take up at some length the attention of the House to discuss those things which, in my judgment, are material and important. I will therefore not waste any of your time or of mine in answering the idle vapourings of those who, for reasons which I have never been able to understand, invariably seize with avidity on every opportunity that offers to sow the seed and fan the flame of racial and religious discord in this country. Faithful to the best traditions of their party, some of the Conservative newspapers have been fair and just in their criticism of this Bill. Others, unmindful of their obligations to the public, and substituting personal abuse for argument, deliberately misrepresenting the purposes and object of this legislation, have not hesitated to appeal to the lowest and the vilest passions of our depraved human nature.

I shall not attempt to follow them in the path on which they have chosen to enter. Those of them who are worthy of consideration I will leave to the punishment which must inevitably come in the hours of calm reflection and sober second thought.

I will only say that the record of the Catholic Church and of its clergy is writ large on every page of the history of the world, and of the history of this country in particular, and so long as the spirit of loyalty to our institutions, and so long as the spirit of self-sacrifice and devotion of duty are held in esteem among us, so long will the names of Catholic priests and prelates hold foremost places on the honour roll of Canada. It is not necessary to go over the ground already covered by my eloquent friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa), but let me mention the names of Jogues, Lallemand and Brebeuf, French Canadian Catholic martyrs who, in the early days of our history gave to the world examples of the noblest courage that ever steeled the heart of man, that of giving testimony unto death for the convictions of the soul.

As I listened a few days ago to the admirable speech of my friend for East Middlesex (Mr. Elson), when he told us that he was a native-born Canadian, that there was no portion of the earth in which he felt so much interest as in that which is bounded by the outer boundaries of Canada, that there were no people who lived and moved and had their being upon the face of the globe in