

not important, and if he says he made no allusion of the kind, I withdraw the remark. But I say that it is in the minds of a large portion of the people of Canada a religious question. I take the responsibility of saying—and every man opposite knows it—that this question to-day is largely shaping itself as a religious question. We have on the one side the Roman Catholic body, largely united, and on the other side a large portion of the Protestant body who are agitating against this Bill on what may be called religious lines. I am not discussing their motive or purpose, but the line of separation is religion, and no one can contest that. I say that inevitably if the right hon. the First Minister had to retire from office on this question and my hon. friend the leader of the opposition were called on to form a government to settle this school question in the Northwest, he could not unite the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) and the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) and the hon. member for Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron). There is nothing wrong in saying that. We all know that these gentlemen have their differences on this question and could not agree. I say that the government then would have to be formed on religious lines, and that would be the greatest calamity that could occur to the Dominion of Canada. Surely in the presence of such a condition of things, we would all do well to see if it be not possible to find some solution of this great question. This is a time of great promise for our country. Canada united, happy and harmonious, will present a picture which will command the admiration and the confidence of the civilized world. Canada, in that happy condition, may hope to receive immigrants, may hope to move forward with even more rapid strides on that splendid march of progress and prosperity with which she has entered the twentieth century. We have had great progress in the Northwest, but after all it is but the beginning of better and greater things.

We hear the tread of pioneers,
Of nations yet to be;
The first low wash of waves when soon
Shall roll a human sea.

Let it be our happy privilege in this parliament to do all that we can to continue that picture of the condition of Canada. Let us be careful, lest by a mistaken step to-day, another picture may have to be presented, showing our people divided along religious lines, our country riven and distracted by religious strife. Canada then would no longer present that happy picture; the tide of immigration would be turned back, capital would take alarm, business men would lose confidence, we would no longer be able to enjoy the prosperity we are now enjoying, nor could we reasonably hope for that

Mr. FIELDING.

magnificent future which to-day opens to our vision. Let us realize the danger of religious strife in this matter. Let us try to avoid it. Let us have peace in Canada if possible—not an ignoble peace, not peace at any price, but peace with honour; peace on the terms of this honourable compromise which meets the religious prejudices, as some see fit to call them, which meets the religious convictions of two and a quarter millions of our people, and yet at the same time secures to the people of the Northwest Territories now and for ever every essential element of a system of national schools—peace on the terms of this modified Bill which we submit to the House with the sincere conviction that we offer a measure which high minded and patriotic men may honourably accept, regardless of party, race, class or creed.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE. Mr. Speaker, it is now within a few minutes of twelve o'clock, and we have put in a good faithful day's work. I move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT—INQUIRY FOR RETURN.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The Prime Minister will observe by referring to the remarks which I made on the first reading of this Bill, that certain information was asked for which, he was good enough to say, would be brought down at the earliest possible moment and put in such form as would make it available for the use of the members of the House in the discussion of this Bill on the second reading and in committee. Some portion of it I believe, has been brought down, but only a small portion. May I be permitted to direct the attention of the right hon. gentleman to the importance of having this request complied with at the earliest possible moment, for we are now in the midst of a discussion on the second reading, and, if the information is to be of any value, it must be available at the earliest possible moment.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Will the hon. gentleman (Mr. R. L. Borden) tell me to what information he particularly refers?

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If the Prime Minister will refer to pages 1464 and 1465 of the revised 'Hansard'—

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I am familiar with that, and I gave orders that that information should be prepared.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Then, it is in progress?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Certainly because special instructions were given—