

now before parliament represent a bargain between certain ministers and the Roman Catholic hierarchy, and, in consequence of this secret compact, we must accept an interpretation of the Canadian constitution, not by the Supreme Court of Canada or the Privy Council of the empire, but by the Court of Rome.

There is not the slightest foundation for any of those statements. There is now abundant proof that they are absolutely untrue. I could give a large number of other extracts from such leading journals as the Toronto 'Mail' and from a paper called the 'Sun,' published in Toronto, but I shall not weary the House by reading them. The object of these items is to convey a false impression to the people of this country; and, to say the least of it, is it not disgraceful and reprehensible on the part of these newspapers? I am not in the habit of using strong language, but I question if the usage of parliament would permit language strong enough to characterize the conduct of those newspapers in connection with this matter. Everybody in Canada knows that these repeated and persistent attacks in connection with the Papal delegate would not have been made if the right hon. gentleman who leads this House was not a member of the Roman Catholic communion. It is repeated day after day that there is a power behind the throne, that this legislation is introduced and is being carried through at the instigation of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, that the premier of Canada has abrogated his functions altogether, and has betrayed the trust which this country has placed in him. We are invited to witness the noble spectacle of men standing patriotically for a great principle. But what do we see? Why, Sir, instead of that, we see men attempting to besmirch and injure the reputation of a great statesman by an utter disregard for the truth; that is the spectacle we see. Let hon. gentlemen look at this measure, calmly examine the charges against the premier, and then judge for themselves. Why, Sir, there is not a sentence in those educational clauses, not a single line that the veriest baby in public life would attribute to the pen of a prelate of the Roman Catholic church. Does any man imagine that if a prelate of the Roman Catholic church had an opportunity of moulding a school system for the Northwest, he would provide for national schools, for schools taught by duly licensed teachers, in which only authorized school books were used, schools subject to strict public inspection and controlled altogether by the local legislature, schools in which the only concession made to his views is that both Protestants and Catholics have the same opportunity of teaching religion for one-half hour at the close of each day? I appeal to hon. gentlemen opposite, what is their opinion? Do they think that the educational provisions of this Bill show internal evidence that they were inspired by a priest of the Roman

Catholic church? I know that the press of both political parties on occasions of excitement say extravagant things, but there should be some bound even to newspaper discussion. I have watched the course of public discussion in this country for the past twenty years, but this is the first occasion on which I have known the press of a great political party, such as the party represented by hon. gentlemen opposite, to abandon all fair dealing and all decency and fair-play, and to revel in falsehood and misrepresentation, as they have done during the course of this discussion. I do not now refer to all the Conservative papers in Canada. The Conservative papers of Montreal, such as the Montreal 'Star' and the Montreal 'Gazette,' have throughout maintained a sober and dignified course; the newspapers which have lost all sense of decency and fairness are certain Toronto newspapers, and among the lowest and most despicable of the yellow journals of the city of Toronto, representing the Conservative party, are the Toronto 'News' and the Toronto 'World.' I am very sorry to say it, because we are all proud of Toronto as a great city, but Toronto seems to have won for itself the unenviable reputation of being the hot-bed of bigotry and intolerance in this country. This is not my opinion alone; I shall give you the opinion of one of the leading newspapers in the city of Montreal, the Montreal 'Gazette.' The Montreal 'Gazette' (Conservative) sums up the Toronto-made 'situation' in the following concise and effective manner:

The Toronto 'Globe' of Saturday speaks of the situation at Ottawa as a crisis. The 'Globe' is being too much excited by its own surroundings. In a good many parts of the country there is a belief that if telegraph and mail communication with Toronto were shut off in some way for a few days, the people generally would forget that parliament was doing anything more serious than voting money for non-paying enterprises.

That, Sir, is the opinion of the Montreal 'Gazette,' that if we could cut the telegraph and mail connections between Toronto and the rest of Canada, that this agitation would stop in a few days, and, Sir, I think the 'Gazette' is right. There must be some compromise on a question of this kind. It has always been the case in the history of Canada that we have had to compromise delicate questions like this. You cannot override the views of a minority of the people that after all comprise nearly half our population, you cannot crush them and say they must do just what you say and what you think. Every student of Canadian history must know that no political leader in this country ever yet succeeded in doing that. The coterie that surrounded the old 'Family Compact' tried to do it and no political combination in this country ever had so good an opportunity to succeed in that attempt and they failed.