

family, and has not sufficient time to devote to the training and up-bringing of his children in the proper way; in these days when we seem to be breaking away from the good old standards of our forefathers in religious matters,—is it unwise or unfair, or unjust, is it a terribly wrong thing to perpetuate a system of education which provides for religious instruction to the young not in the school but in the school-house? I venture to think not. In my humble opinion, the solution which the government has reached is an admirable one, and I firmly believe it would be considered good legislation if the Dominion government, provided they had the power, were to adopt a national school law to apply to all the provinces, which would be on the same lines as that under the existing legislation which it is sought to perpetuate—a law which provides for the greatest efficiency, which provides for the same education to the children, whether of the minority or of the majority, and which provides for the teaching of the Christian religion in which the children have been born,—a law which appears to me to be the highest wisdom in respect of educational policy. Extremists might not be satisfied, but all reasonable men would be. If there is one thing which has retarded the progress of Canada more than another, it has been religious discord. In these enlightened days cannot we be big enough, and broad enough, and charitable enough, to take a larger view of things. Cannot we bring ourselves closer in touch with the teachings of the Master—the founder of Christianity? Cannot we take the view taught by him that charity in the broadest sense of the term is the essence of true religion? How utterly opposed to that true spirit of charity is the position taken to-day by the extremists and agitators in both of the great religious families. No good ever resulted from the discords of the past. No good can ever result from such agitations which are so foreign to the true spirit of Christianity. In the interest of peace, in the interest of the prosperity and development of the country, it is of the highest importance that, as far as possible, the people should be a unit. And to that desirable end it seems to me to be the part of statesmanship to adopt a policy of reasonable compromise in regard to all matters which affect the conscientious beliefs of any section of the people.

Mr. ALCORN moved the adjournment of the debate.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Go on.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. We don't want to sit here until next summer.

Mr. SPROULE. I think when we have worked till twelve o'clock we have done a reasonable days work.

Mr. FIELDING. I hoped that we might have one more speech to-night. It is only half past eleven.

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Mr. ALCORN. If the House is in that temper I have no objection to go on, although the hour is late and it would be rather unusual to go on.

Mr. FIELDING. Perhaps under the circumstances we had better adjourn. But I will ask my hon. friends on both sides of the House to agree from this time forth to sit a little later. There are yet many gentlemen who wish to speak and I am sure there is a general desire that we should not occupy the whole summer with this debate.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. It is also to be remembered that we have committee meetings to attend to-morrow morning at ten or eleven o'clock.

Motion agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Fielding, House adjourned at 11.35 p.m.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WEDNESDAY, April 12, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 134) to incorporate The Provident Savings Association, Limited.—Mr. Gervais —by Mr. L. Lavergne.

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION.

Mr. SPEAKER. I have the honour to inform the House that the Clerk of the House has received from the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery a certificate of the election and return of Edmund Bristol, Esquire, for the electoral district of Toronto Centre, in the province of Ontario.

QUESTIONS.

DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

Mr. TAYLOR asked :

1. Who is the Deputy Minister of the Interior, and when was he appointed?
2. When did Mr. J. A. Smart cease to be Deputy Minister of the Interior?
3. Did Mr. Smart resign, or was he dismissed?
4. Has Mr. Smart been superannuated?
5. What are the reasons which lead to Mr. Smart ceasing to be Deputy Minister of the Interior?
6. Is Mr. Smart at present employed by the Department of the Interior, or by the government, either permanently or temporarily, in any capacity?
7. If so, what is his present position or employment, where is he so employed, and what is his present salary or remuneration as such?
8. If not, is it the intention of the government to further employ Mr. Smart, and in what capacity?