

point to support these Bills, would see their way clear to do so.

There is an alternative presented to us, the amendment of the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden). It is a question always with a member, to what extent he should accept an amendment, even if certain portions or it are satisfactory. There are portions of that amendment with which I shall not say I find fault, but the closing portion of it leaves some doubt as to its actual meaning; whether the closing words are simply a repetition of the idea conveyed by the earlier ones or whether they are intended to be a distinct addition to the powers given to the provisions, it is not easy to state; it is possibly left to the members to decide each for himself. Owing to that indefiniteness in the matter, I feel it would be unwise on my part to support it, and therefore I shall not support the amendment of the leader of the opposition, but I would again urge on the government, in view of all the danger that may come from pressing this Bill through, to consider well and carefully the wisdom of getting a decision of the Privy Council on these questions.

Mr. D. DERBYSHIRE (Brockville). Mr. Speaker, in beginning to speak on this Autonomy Bill, I feel it my duty to express my sympathy with you who have sat through these long weary weeks listening to this debate. It must have been a torture to you to listen to some of these long drawn out addresses that have hardly touched the question under discussion, listening to quotations day after day, none of which dealt with the business under discussion, the same attack made on both sides of the House, the same hairsplitting, the same twisting of language to suit the object of the different speakers. I had intended to save you the pain of listening to me on this question on which there is now but little left to be said. After the able speech of the right hon. First Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) and the hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) very little new can be said on the question. It was natural that hon. members from the west should be heard from as they were the people most particularly interested in this Bill and they have expressed themselves most freely. I have been struck with the remarkable unanimity amongst these members as to the position they take in regard to the school question. They seem to think that the law as it now stands is all right, that it is the best possible system that could be inaugurated for the Northwest. I think in such a case it would be right to incorporate this in the constitution of the new provinces. One thing has impressed me, Sir, very much, and that is that this discussion, although weary, has not been in vain. We are learning more of Canada, we are realizing that every part of this Dominion is dear to us and we are more hopeful for Canadian

unity than ever before. I have always thought provincially. Ontario, to me, has been the brightest jewel in this whole country, but after hearing some of my hon. friends from the province of Quebec, it has amazed me how these men can speak so eloquently in a language which is foreign to them. It has broadened my patriotism and increased my admiration of my fellow countrymen of the province of Quebec to know that they have elected an English speaking Protestant as the speaker of their legislative assembly in a province which is largely composed of French Canadians. Nova Scotia is particularly to be envied. Solid eighteen! What a Liberal paradise this must be and such a bunch of fine representatives! I have had to admire a great many of the men from the west as well. Nearly all the speakers have said that this was the most important Bill that was ever presented to this House. Possibly it is true, but I think, if it is not one of the most important since confederation, it is the most remarkable. It gives to the two new provinces a constitution. It deals with the difficult matter of boundaries and it makes financial arrangements for the conduct of the business of these new provinces. It makes provision for education, and yet such judgment has been exercised in the drafting of this Bill and so carefully has it been worded that there has practically been no discussion on any of the points of this Bill save on that in regard to education. The new provinces have accepted this Bill in its entirety. The school clauses have been endorsed by public opinion and the reception given to the newly appointed Minister of the Interior (Mr. Oliver) in the most important constituency between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains is a most significant evidence of the feeling of the people in the west. The receptions which have been accorded him after his election at Calgary and Winnipeg have shown the unanimity of the western people in connection with this Bill. I am sure everybody will rejoice on July 1st, when these Bills are brought into operation and the new provinces are allowed to take their places in confederation. Let us look for a few moments at the details. The boundaries have been marked out in a way to meet with the general approval of the people in the west. It is true that the hon. ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) raised some objection and that the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) thought that possibly something could be done to assist the farming and ranching interest in that section of the country. Great discretion has been shown in leaving the northern boundaries of Saskatchewan unsettled. Had the northern extension been made at this time endless trouble might have ensued. As it was for political capital the Roblin-Rogers gang have plotted to make trouble for the government in the west. They dragged the Papal ablegate's name into the Autonomy