

of Manitoba. The same promises contained in the treaty of Paris and in the statutes of 1774 were made almost word for word to the inhabitants of Manitoba and of the Northwest Territories. I wish to have this recorded on 'Hansard' so that all may know now and in years to come, why we in this House take the view which I am expressing and which was expressed by some of our friends yesterday. When Colonel De Salaberry and Mr. Thibault were appointed by the Canadian government commissioners to the Red river settlement the following was contained in their instructions :

You will not fail to direct the attention of the mixed society inhabiting the cultivated territories of the Red River and Assiniboine, to the fact which comes within your daily knowledge and observation and is patent to all the world, that in the four provinces in this Dominion men of all religious creed and complexion stand upon one broad footing of perfect equality in the eye of the government and the law ; and that no administration could confront the enlightened public sentiment of this country which attempted to act in the Northwest upon principles more restricted and less liberal than those which are fairly established here.

Here ? Where is that ? In the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Later on, instructions were given to Mr. Donald A. Smith (now Lord Strathcona) which contained the words :

The people (of the Northwest and Manitoba) may rely upon it that respect and protection will be extended to the different religious denominations ; that titles . . . and that all the franchises which have existed or which the people may prove themselves qualified to exercise shall be duly continued or liberally conferred. In declaring the desire and determination of Her Majesty's cabinet—

You see how far it came from, not only from the government of Canada but from the government of England—

—you may safely use the terms of the ancient formula that 'right shall be done in all cases.'

'Not a stone for a loaf of bread as my right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) said the other day would be given to these people by the amendment which is before the House.

Later on a letter was written to Mr. MacTavish, then governor of the Hudson Bay Company, in which are the words :

And the inhabitants of Rupert's Land—

That is very much the people of whom we are talking now ; we cannot be nearer the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan than when we are talking of Rupert's Land :

And the inhabitants of Rupert's Land of all classes and persuasions may rest assured that Her Majesty's government has no intention of interfering with or setting aside or allowing others to interfere with the religions, the rights or the franchises hitherto enjoyed or to which they may hereafter prove themselves equal.

Mr. BERGERON.

In 1869 the Canadian Secretary of State wrote to Mr. McDougall in these words :

You will now be in a position to assure the residents of the Northwest Territories that all their civil and religious liberties will be sacredly respected, that the country will be governed as in the past by British law and according to the spirit of British justice.

What is British justice ? We find it in the law which was passed only two years ago in England. And that is the promise which was made to the people of Rupert's Land and the Northwest Territories.

Later on the Governor General of Canada issued a proclamation which was in these words :

By Her Majesty's authority I therefore assure you that on the union with Canada all your civil and religious rights and privileges will be respected, your properties secured to you, and that your country will be governed as in the past under British laws and in the spirit of British justice.

Need we go any further than that to ascertain the promises which were made to the Catholics of the Northwest Territories, that Territory where we now intend to create two provinces ? I am reading these promises, I am speaking here before the representatives of the people of this country. I am here supposed to be speaking before men of broadmindedness, of men who represent the good spirit of the people of this country, who represent those in the country who want to see it great and prosperous, and these men are generally the best. When I mention these different promises which were made, it seems to me that I am proving the position I said at the commencement I intended to take, that we should not stand so much by the words of the constitution as by the spirit of the men who wanted to create a great empire in this part of the American continent.

Promises were also made in the province of Manitoba. I shall read them and I shall show which political party was the first to curtail the rights and privileges of the people of that province, just as to-day the same party is going to do the same work for the Northwest Territories. Let us read some of the promises made in Manitoba. They call that a kind of compact which was made in 1870. There was at that time a legislative council in Manitoba and there was a strong rivalry between the French Canadians and the English Canadians. The fight was carried on for a long time. As long as the Manitoba government was under the leadership of the Conservatives right and justice were respected. The Liberal party wanted to get into power ; they could not do it on their policy, they had none, any more there than anywhere else. They thought they would gain something by raising racial or religious cries and they were ably seconded by Mr. Dalton McCarthy who sat in this parliament at that time and who had some reasons to work against the Con-