

Mr. BELCOURT. Does the hon. gentleman assume that the new provinces are going to repeal the present law?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I say that the Northwest provinces will do a great deal similar to what the hon. gentleman's friends did in Manitoba.

Mr. BELCOURT. That is not an answer to my question. There will be no cause for remedial legislation unless the new provinces repeal the law we are about to enact. Does he pretend that they will do so?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. They will pass their own laws and exercise their own judgment on the question. The hon. member has no right to dictate to them what they must do. They must have the very same liberty that is enjoyed in the east. They must have the freedom he and his co-religionists and friends in the east have had. And I say they would not be a patriotic people, they would not be men of British blood if they did not resent this interference. Now, the right hon. Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) has brought on all this. He has made a great mistake, first of all in transferring to the federal arena a comparatively small question, one that could have been settled in the comparatively local field where it ought to have been settled. For some reason or other he has chosen to cause strife, to cause agitation, to cause dissension, from the Atlantic to the Pacific over this question. There was no need of it. I say that we are now on the eve of a long period of strife in connection with this matter. This has not been brought about by this side, it has not been brought about by the 'intolerant' people of Ontario, but by the province of Quebec and the Liberal party of the Dominion, and the responsibility must rest upon them. We do not want these school questions brought into this parliament. The Conservative party brought them into this parliament once, and the Conservative party almost disappeared from this country by reason of this act on its part. The Liberal party have brought this question into this parliament, and the same doom awaits them for the same offence. Leave these questions to the provinces; leave it to the west to settle what kind of schools they will have. I have enough confidence in my fellow-countrymen in the west to believe that they will do substantial justice. So far, they have done it. I would sooner trust my rights and interests to them than to an Act of the parliament of the Dominion which has to be enforced by the club, if at all, but that can never be enforced in the west. There can be no enforcement of such a law upon a free people who have not been consulted in the making of the law. The Liberal party, the party that claim to be the party of public rights,

of progress, making chains to shackle the great and free people of the west! The people of the west will not stand it. And, if there is dissension, if there is disorder, if there is an appeal to the courts, if there is an appeal for remedial legislation, it will be because the Liberal party have gone back on their pledges, have gone back on their record, and have chosen the harsh way to settle a question that might have been negotiated and settled in a much more moderate way.

Now, for saying the things I have said here to-night, I shall be charged with all kinds of intolerance, with being rancorous, with being malignantly rancorous, as I have been charged in the press of Quebec. But I say I am speaking for the people of my province, and I believe I am speaking for the people of the west. I believe what I say is on the line of the political institutions which are the pride of our people and which are being worked out in this country. There is no rancor in my heart. I think as much of my fellow-countrymen of the east, no matter to what province they belong, as I do of my fellow-countrymen of the west. We have to govern this country; we have to live together. We must learn to grow together. But we must have discussions of this kind in parliaments of this kind. All our progress on constitutional lines has been worked out in discussions like this. Parliament is a place for discussion. And because men take strong ground in parliament, and because they try to justify their position by argument, there is no stigma to be placed upon them for that. Never was one of these questions threshed out in old Canada, or in old England, such as we are now discussing when there was not this feeling that now exists, and this charge and counter-charge. All this is of the nature of the case. And so, while trying to make a strong case from my point of view, I do so with high respect for the views of those who do not agree with me. In some way we have to work this thing out. We have to learn to govern the country as it is to-day, with diverse races and diverse religious professions. We have to do it respecting one another and according to one another the right to the fullest expression of the views we hold. And it is in that spirit that I am addressing the House to-night. I know that some good will come of this discussion. I know that out of it all, in some way, the people of the west will be left free and that they will assert their freedom to deal with the school question as they will. We cannot by any Act of this parliament impose conditions upon them if they see fit to refuse to carry them out. And, stating the case as I do, and stating it as strongly as I do, I state it from the patriotic standpoint and no other. I join my fellow-countrymen in Quebec, and my fellow-countrymen in the maritime pro-