

crucible and all we have to do now, is to put the stamp of Canadian nationality upon it.

I wonder if, in view of the events of the last five or six weeks the Prime Minister, if he were introducing that measure to-day, would speak so lightly. I would suggest as a coat of arms for the new Territories the vast prairie, a tethered buffalo, and the motto 'provincial rights strictly limited,' a good commercial motto. The Prime Minister excused the delay in introducing this Bill in previous sessions on the ground that there was to be a new election, that there would be increased representation of the Northwest Territories and that he wished to have the benefit of the advice of the new members from the Territories. There has been a new election, and there is now an increased representation, but the right hon. gentleman did not avail himself of the advice of the leaders from this part of the west. The leaders who ought to have been consulted were not consulted on the educational clause. All the other clauses apparently were discussed but this clause was put to one side, it was shirked because apparently it was known that those who were most interested would most strongly object to it. The Prime Minister of the Territories, Mr. Haultain, was not consulted. Surely the right hon. gentleman who leads this House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) acted differently from his usual custom in treating that hon. gentleman with such discourtesy. Surely the way to bring about conciliation and the way to effect peace would have been to consult with the man who was the representative of the people. That was not done. The Hon. Mr. Haultain was deliberately ignored. The Minister of the Interior, the member of the cabinet who ought to have been chiefly consulted among the ministers was also ignored. The Minister of Finance the next most important man was also ignored. The Bill was brought down in a hurry just a few days before the return of these two ministers. The Prime Minister evidently had it in his mind that if before bringing down the Bill these two leading members of his cabinet had an opportunity of discussing the educational clauses and the financial clauses, it might have been impossible to force that Bill upon the cabinet. He no doubt thought that if he could take the plunge and place that Bill before the House as the action of the government then his two colleagues would be forced to accept it rather than to bolt. One of these ministers did accept, the other bolted; but he did not bolt for long.

The people of this country in 1896 were much astonished at the ease and rapidity with which the Prime Minister settled the vexed and difficult school question of Manitoba. They gave him credit for marvellous powers of conciliation but as soon as this Bill was brought down the reason for that settlement in 1896 was thoroughly explained. That settlement of 1896 was a settle-

ment with a string upon it. The promise that went with the sunny smiles that brought about that settlement was the promise that when the Northwest should be divided into provinces, restriction should be placed upon that territory and a restriction should be placed upon Manitoba as far as her boundaries are concerned, if she did not accept separate schools as desired. That, Sir, is the reason why there has been such an arousing of feeling in Ontario and in the west. It is a feeling that the people have been deceived and that this is an attempt to force upon these new Territories that which they do not want, that which by right they ought to settle among themselves, and to force upon Manitoba a restriction of her area as a punishment for her rebellion of 1896. The Prime Minister, and I think, the Minister of Justice both made the statement that they thought the school clause as embodied in this Bill was merely confirming exactly what the Territories now have. If that was the case it would surely have been easy to make that statement plain without putting in an elaborate clause which has caused so much trouble, so much excitement and so much distrust. The Prime Minister in referring to separate schools contrasted the separate schools with the godless schools of the other side of the line, gave credit to these separate schools for the difference in the morals of this country and the morals of the people to the south of us. If that was the case he certainly had not in view the separate school as it is now said to exist in the Northwest, merely a secular school with half an hour at the end of the day for religious instruction if the children wish it. The separate schools he must have had in view were separate schools, religious schools, pure and simple, or the reference which he made was of no value. It has been said that there has been an active canvass by fanatics to raise the excitement of the people of the west. There has been no such thing. The excitement, the meetings, the feeling that has been aroused there is a feeling that has sprung up spontaneously among the people. One of the results of that feeling was the meeting at Massey Hall. That meeting was organized by friends of the right hon. gentleman and organized in his interests. So much was that the case that not one of the Toronto members were asked to attend it. It was organized with a view of keeping it outside the politics of Toronto, because the politicians of that city were on the Conservative side. It was a representative meeting of the friends of the right hon. gentleman and it passed a resolution, a copy of which was sent to him. That resolution reads as follows:

Whereas it is of vital importance to Canada that the new provinces about to be established shall be left free to shape their own educational policy in accordance with the needs of the