

acting Minister of Public Works is ready to fight the cause in the city of London; I am even told that the chief whip of the party (Mr. Calvert) for Ontario is ready to fight for the cause in his own constituency; and we all know that the right hon. gentleman has a minister on tap in the city of Toronto, in the person of Mr. A. B. Aylesworth, who, it was some time ago reported, had joined, or was ready to join, the government, and he is ready, I believe, to replace either the Minister of Public Works or the Minister of Justice when the Prime Minister asks him to join the cabinet. In view of all these things, then, I say, and I say it after full consideration, after visiting the province of Ontario, where I have tried to ascertain the opinion prevalent among the people, and after all that has been said in this House about opening seats, that it is the duty of the government, to themselves, to the country, to the Bill and to the constitutional principles which they have enunciated in connection with this Bill, to hold these elections in the immediate future, to consult public opinion, and in some way to obtain the views of the people of Ontario in regard to this great constitutional question; and if they do not do so, it will be taken as an evidence of cowardice on their part. Now, let us have it out, let us have it out in Ontario, and let us have it out now; and I make the challenge on behalf of my province—I am only speaking for myself—I make the challenge on behalf of the province of Ontario to submit that question before the people in two of its most enlightened constituencies, the constituency represented by the late Minister of Public Works, which is a country constituency, and in the city constituency of London, represented by the acting Minister of Public Works. Let them follow the constitutional practice of consulting the people on a question of this kind. Let the right hon. gentleman ascertain what view the people of Ontario take on this question, the people of Ontario, who, as I pointed out the other day in this House, have as much interest as those of any other section of the country in the great west. As I pointed out here the other night, the great west has been largely settled by people from Ontario, who have taken Ontario institutions up there, while Ontario capital has been poured lavishly into that western country; and, therefore, it is that the people of this benighted province of Ontario, this intolerant province, have at heart the welfare of the west, and they claim that the people of the west should be given the same opportunity of deciding this school question for themselves as was given to the people of the older provinces prior to confederation. All the provinces that entered the confederation had an opportunity of passing on the school question and of saying in what way they were to restrict themselves in regard to education, and the peo-

ple of Ontario say that the same opportunity should be given to the people of those western provinces, that they should be consulted, and especially that they should be consulted on a constitutional amendment or a constitutional law which cannot be revoked. Surely we are to have in this country government by the people and for the people; surely we are to have consultations with the people, and here is an opportunity for one. If hon. gentlemen get the endorsement of the province of Ontario, they may have considerable reason for going on with this Bill; but, in the meantime, after all that has taken place, after what the Postmaster General has said and the Minister of Customs has said, and the confidence they have expressed in their policy, surely there ought to be no hesitation in filling these vacancies, or at least in filling one vacancy and in making another vacancy, and of having this question threshed out before the people. I beg to move that the House do now adjourn.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister). Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that at this moment I have to say to my hon. friend (Mr. W. F. Maclean) that in my estimation and judgment his remarks are in exceedingly bad taste.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Hear, hear.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. It was only on Wednesday that our friend and colleague died and it was only last Saturday that we attended his funeral. The government will have to choose a successor, and we will have, at an early date, to make an announcement to the House, but when the hon. gentleman expects that we should be prepared to give an answer to his question to-day, I think it betrays a want of consideration on his part and that he asks a question to which he does not expect me to respond. I shall give him his answer in due time.

Motion (Mr. W. F. Maclean) to adjourn negatived.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN THE NORTHWEST—SCHEDULES AND MAPS.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Mr. Speaker, before the House proceeds to the Orders of the Day, I would like the right hon. gentleman (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), in connection with the draft of the schedules which he was good enough to send me last Friday, whether or not the schedules for Saskatchewan have yet been completed and if not when we may expect to receive them. There was a map sent of the constituencies in both provinces with the delimitations of one only. We only received the one. Do I understand that we may rely on that map?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Yes.