

might be annexed to Manitoba would naturally object to losing the right they had to separate schools, and to be subjected to the educational conditions which existed in Manitoba.

Mr. Campbell then asked me what would be my desire in this respect.

I then gave him the memorandum which has already appeared in the press.

My hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) this afternoon endeavoured to build an argument upon a certain construction which he put upon the words 'politically expedient.' Let me submit to the reasonable attention of the House what the inference to be drawn from these words is. For whom was this to be 'politically expedient'? Was it for the government of the country that, for the third time had received a mandate from the people, and by an overwhelming vote, by a majority greater than ever known in the history of the country? What would be the necessity for this government to descend to 'political expediency'? In whose interest would the course suggested be 'politically expedient' then? Unquestionably in that of the Manitoba government, the government that had been interviewing Archbishop Langevin, the government whose Attorney General had been interviewing the ablegate endeavouring to arrange to obtain political support—as I would say, if I were to use the style of argument of hon. gentlemen opposite—in return for making these concessions. For whom else could it be 'politically expedient' than for the government that was talking of having a dissolution some of these days, and was looking for political support? I submit that the argument of my hon. friend and the inference he attempted to draw were wholly unwarranted. Who were the people who were chasing this ablegate in relation to the schools? Were they the members of this government? On the contrary, the indisputable evidence of the facts before us, shows conclusively who were engaging in these 'political expedients.' For, what does the ablegate say? He says it will be politically expedient,

—inasmuch as the Catholics in any territory which might be annexed to Manitoba would naturally object to losing the right they had to separate schools, and to be subjected to the educational conditions which existed in Manitoba.

For whom was this 'politically expedient'? For the government that wanted to secure the support and sympathy of the people of the Northwest Territories, so that they might come and ask to be joined to Manitoba. Surely the inference is so irresistible that no one came to any other conclusion than that this was the reason why the statement was made that it was 'politically expedient' for the Manitoba government. And the story of this matter has not yet all been told? We have not heard from Mr. Roblin yet. This forecastle

member of the administration, who is, perhaps, playing the game of politics for his own personal advantage—

An hon. MEMBER. Looking for Roblin's job.

Mr. MACDONALD.—and looking for Roblin's job, as an hon. friend suggests—when we come to get the whole story about this political pirate from Manitoba, it may be found that there are some little things yet to be said that will not be heard with very great satisfaction by our friends who have raised this question.

Now, we are told, in the light of facts such as I have outlined—outlined fairly, I submit—that the Protestant feeling in this country should be roused against this government and against the leader. That is the argument that hon. gentlemen opposite have been making and to whom are we asked to look for guidance? To the hon. gentleman (Mr. R. L. Borden) who leads the opposition. Well, that hon. gentleman knows very well that his entrance into political life was signalized by the advocacy of the coercion of the province of Manitoba. He knows that the then leader of the Conservative party, recognizing his legal abilities, was anxious that the hon. gentleman should lend those abilities to the advocacy of the cause of the coercion of Manitoba, to which that leader was then committed. The hon. gentleman (Mr. R. L. Borden) did not enter political life under auspices of so clear and unequivocal a character as to be able to hold out very alluring hopes even to my hon. friend from South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean), who might be looking for a leader on this question. Or, are we to look to our hon. friend (Mr. Foster) who addressed us this afternoon and who reads us a moral lecture every time he gets on his feet. This hon. gentleman assumes a high moral attitude. As he soars above ordinary mortals, and as 'his tongue drops manna, and makes the worst appear the better reason,' he fancies that the people of this country are deluded by the sermonettes he gives us. Why, Sir, what is the political history of that hon. gentleman? Born in the province of New Brunswick, representing the county of King's, his native county, he was driven thence after four or five years. He found a resting place, for a moment, in the county of York—but, as an hon. friend behind me remarks, he dare not go back. He flitted about St. John for a while; and then the people of New Brunswick took summary methods of dealing with him and drove him away politically, not only from St. John, but from the province of New Brunswick for ever. And the result has been that for some years past he has been a political Ishmaelite. He has been going up and down this country like a lonely pelican of the wilderness, like a solitary sparrow on the housetop, looking for