

Mr. FOSTER. He is the writer of the life of your leader.

Mr. PATERSON. And could my hon. friend who has interrupted me desire a greater honour to be conferred upon him than that Mr. Willison should be able to write such a life of him? But I call your attention to that extract for the reason that the hon. gentleman who became so indignant last night with my hon. friend the Minister of Finance when he pointed out to them what their course meant and what, in his judgment, it was leading to, were rebuked. These things should not be said. Here is a gentleman who takes the view, or who states, that if we fail now to do our utmost to ensure the unity of the races who are crowding into those new provinces, we shall be guilty of treason to the commonwealth, and yet who proposes, as a means of cementing that unity between these different peoples of the Northwest, to take away from the minority the rights which they have had for thirty years. Sir, I care not what these men say.

An hon. MEMBER. Louder.

Mr. PATERSON. I will speak loud enough. I am not like the hon. gentleman; when I have anything to say I am not afraid to speak it out. There are men in the Liberal party, grand men, excellent men, who have my esteem, and who will have my esteem even if they leave the party and feel that they cannot continue longer with us, because they think that we are wrong in this matter. I think when they thoroughly understand this Bill, when the past is past, when we enjoy that peace and unity that will prevail, and that progress and prosperity which will result, as we believe they will revise their opinions. But, whether they are able to do so or not, their views will be respected by me. I will give them credit for conscientiousness; but I do think this, that if they had calmly considered the question, some of them, limited in their number, grand men, who, in the heat of their feelings on this question and viewing it from their standpoint, have uttered certain things against the right hon. Prime Minister of this Dominion, will regret themselves having said, for instance, that he has departed from the principles that he advocated in days gone by, that he has sacrificed the principles that he declared to be good and that he would ever stand by. While I regret that it is the case that such statements have been made, I only wish, in conclusion, to say this, if my words will carry any weight and my judgment is worth anything in this country, where for two and thirty years I have had the honour, which I value, of a constituency returning me as their representative, if, speaking from the knowledge I have of thirty of these years spent as a fellow-member in this House with the Prime Minister of Canada, eighteen years with him in opposition, eight years honoured by him as a colleague, necessarily

Mr. PATERSON.

brought into the most intimate relations with him—I say, if my words will carry weight, if my words will influence men who may for the time being, perhaps in the heat of their feelings, have uttered the ungenerous words, that, speaking out of the knowledge of the man that I have, Sir Wilfrid Laurier is, in my opinion, as he long has been, the one man pre-eminent above all other men that this Dominion has produced in cementing the nationality of the people of Canada.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). Mr. Speaker, it is hardly necessary for one who speaks in this House after my good friend the Minister of Customs (Mr. Paterson) to assure the House that he will be moderate, because there is something in the tone of my hon. friend, even when he gives utterance to the mildest thoughts, which leads one to believe that he is a man of such violent type that it is impossible to reach the high vocal pitch he has done himself in propounding his opinions. But I notice that my good friend the Minister of Customs, although he spoke in a very deep voice, spoke somewhat low when he assured the House that this measure, which is being introduced to protect the minority in the Northwest Territories, was absolutely harmless, contained nothing which would in any way trench upon the rights of the majority, and that the importance of that enactment had been very much exaggerated, because it contained very little. My hon. friend's voice was very deep, but it was hardly lower than that of the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) last night when he made the startling announcement that so trifling were the concessions we gave that the schools which this Bill was intended to create would almost infallibly disappear before long. My attention has been drawn, Mr. Speaker, to a caricature in to-day's Montreal 'Herald,' at which I feel very much offended. My hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) is represented as sitting on a wharf with a fish basket. At one side of him is the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) with a fish on the end of his line, and on the other side myself with another fish. We are both supposed to be fishing on each side of the wharf different kinds of fish that are called petitions, in order to put them into the basket held by my hon. friend the leader of the opposition. The only difference between myself and my hon. friend from East Grey is that I have a tall hat on and he has a Christy stiff. It will be for the hon. member for East Grey to clear himself of this imputation, but for my part I can say positively that during the course of the present discussion I have fished for no petitions in the province of Quebec, and indeed I may say that I think this caricature would perhaps be more properly applied to my hon. friend the Minister of Finance and my hon. friend the Minister of Customs, from what they have said in their speeches in explanation of the measure which is now