

pletes this Bill they should do something to remedy some of the evils which I have mentioned. One hon. member opposite, the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) I think it was, made allusion in his speech to the settlers coming into that country as one reason why the Dominion government should retain control of the lands. He made allusion to the Americans who are coming in and stated that it was not safe, that they might come in in such numbers as to constitute a danger. He did not state what they might do, but I inferred from what he said that he thought it was possible they might undertake to turn the country over to the United States. I wish to state for my part that I believe to-day the American settlers are the very best settlers who are coming into the Northwest.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Hear, hear.

Mr. HERRON. I do not exclude settlers from any foreign country. I prefer, of course, our own people from our own provinces of Canada, but of the people from any foreign countries, there is no doubt in the world that the people of the United States are going to be our best settlers, and I think they are going to be as loyal citizens of this country as can be found in the Dominion of Canada. I know they have proved themselves to be that up to the present time, and I think we are quite safe in trusting them in the future. When I heard the Prime Minister introducing this Bill declare that the Dominion was simply putting the stamp of nationality on the new provinces, that that was all they required to make them full fledged provinces, I was delighted with the noble sentiments he expressed, but when I learned all the conditions to be placed on the people of the Northwest, I began to think it would be more appropriate, not so parliamentary, but more appropriate, if he had called us reserves; if he had said that he was going to make two great reserves. We are familiar with reserves in our country, we have Indian reserves and half-breed reserves, and if he had called them reserves, if he had stated that the government were going to retain the control of the lands and minerals in those provinces and that the provinces were to have separate schools placed on them, that they were to be dictated to from Ottawa, I think it would have been more in keeping than to say that we were to have the great stamp of nationality placed on the two new provinces. If he had said that they were putting the Maverick brand on us and placing us in the Maverick herd, it would have been nearer the truth. If I was to vote alone on this question, but I am glad to see there are several members on this side at least, who have some consideration for the people of the Northwest Territories and are willing to do justice to those Territories,—but if I were to be left here alone to vote on this

question, I would vote against provincial autonomy under the conditions under which we are getting it here to-day.

At six o'clock House took recess.

After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. C. H. PARMELEE (Shefford). Mr. Speaker, I feel almost like apologizing for venturing to address the House in this debate which has now lasted for a great many weeks. However, I can plead the excuse that I do not often abuse the patience of the House and further, that as one of the Protestant minority of the province of Quebec I may feel that a few observations from me will not be out of place. The question we are now discussing is an important one. We have before this House of Commons measures creating two new provinces in the great west; provinces which some day we hope will become among the most populous and most prosperous in this whole Dominion, and provinces for the future welfare of which we have the greatest aspirations. It is, therefore, an act of the highest statesmanship that we should give these new provinces a constitution under which they can successfully work out their destiny. I may remark in passing that I fully endorse the proposal of the government in respect to the public lands of these provinces. In view of the vast importance to this western country that it should be peopled with an enterprising and energetic population, it is a wise provision that the Dominion government should retain the lands and continue the splendid immigration policy which for some years past has been so successful. Then, too, I am fully in accord with the very generous financial terms which the Bills accord to the new provinces. I believe we have made them financial concessions which will place them in perhaps a better position to construct bridges, to build roads, to maintain schools and to support their provincial institutions generally than if they had the management of the lands in their own hands. My remarks will be directed chiefly to the school clauses in the Bills before us, and in order that I may be brief I shall make no quotations. Although I may be a little out of the fashion in that respect I feel that I will earn the good will of my fellow members by adhering to this rule.

The great bone of contention in this debate has been the schools which are to be established in these new provinces, and on this question I fear that a great deal more than was at all necessary has been said. As a layman it would not be fitting for me to expound the constitution, but, Sir, the ordinary man reading the provisions of the British North America Act cannot help seeing that there is written in the constitution of Canada the principle of separate schools for the protection of minorities. If we go back to the genesis of separate schools