

able, are comparatively of small importance. I can assure the hon. gentleman that he will find in the Northwest Territories the people have a very strong, and, he may find, a very well-founded objection to many of the clauses outside of the educational clauses to which he has referred. I do not wish to occupy time more than to say that the members of this House, I suppose, have a perfect right, when the government brings down such a measure as this and when the right hon. gentleman tells us that the government is considering the question, to ask that when they have pondered over, they will give us the benefit of their views. When the right hon. gentleman takes the position he does we have the right to ask if he brings to the discussion of this question the same open mind, the same views as to constitutional law and the rights of the provinces that he held years ago. In case he may have forgotten, I will read his own views as to the rights of the provinces, as explained by himself some years ago. In 1893, he said:

Sir, I am to-day as firm a believer as I ever was in the doctrine of provincial rights. I take as much pride as ever I did in belonging to the great party which in the past carried that doctrine to a successful issue, an issue, indeed, so successful that we rank among the advocates of that doctrine to-day the most prominent of the men who opposed it in the past. And when the historian of the future shall refer to the first twenty years of confederation, the brightest page he will have to record will be the page in which he will trace the efforts of the Liberal party to maintain inviolate and intact the liberties and independence of the local legislatures. And I am proud to say that among the names which shall be revered in the hearts of their countrymen, as the names of those who stood foremost in the fight, will be the names of Edward Blake and Oliver Mowat.

Surely, Sir, we have the right even yet to expect that the right hon. gentleman, misled by those who by distorted facts and mistaken law, have caused him to abandon the position which apparently he would like to occupy—surely we have the right to expect that the right hon. gentleman, after considering the question, as he promised to do, will be only too proud to add his name to those dear to the Canadian people as the defenders of provincial rights, and thus complete the glorious triumvirate Edward Blake, Oliver Mowat and Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

Mr. E. B. OSLER (West Toronto). When my right hon. friend, the Prime Minister, charged the leader of the opposition with treating this matter with levity, he made Mr. Speaker, what I consider a most extraordinary statement. I fail to see how any one who has listened to the remarks of my hon. friend (Mr. Borden) could come to any other conclusion than that he has treated this question as what it really is, one of the most serious that has ever come before this House. But if a charge of levity in this connection rests against any

one, it certainly does against the Prime Minister. In his reply to my hon. friend I fail to discover a single argument. Instead of arguing seriously the points raised by the leader of the opposition, he has sought lightly to brush them aside as if the question were not to be considered or discussed at all until it suited the right hon. gentleman to proceed further with his Bill and favour the House with some further particulars. But that my right hon. friend is daily finding his position more uncomfortable and his difficulties increasing is evidenced by the fact that in his reference to the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) he let slip an allusion of a personal nature, because that is a species of retort which my right hon. friend is usually careful to avoid. In referring to the hon. member, he spoke of him as not being a member of parliament only, but as something else. Well, we all know what the right hon. gentleman meant. We all know that by something else he meant that the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) was the chief source of those petitions which are being daily presented against the clause in this Bill relating to schools. For my part I can say, so far as my knowledge goes, that my hon. friend is not the chief source of those petitions. In fact I have been very much surprised that the body which the hon. member for East Grey represents has shown itself so thoroughly self contained throughout this matter. I do not believe that the First Minister realizes for a moment the feeling which this Bill has created. Already by this measure he has set creed against creed in the province of Ontario. Already he has done evil which ten years will not wipe out; and I appeal to him to lose not another day in submitting this Bill to the House and the people because every day's delay is widening the breach and intensifying the feeling against it. It is intensifying that feeling to such an extent that no matter whether the Bill be altered to meet the views of those who are opposing it or not the bitterness now created will last longer than the lifetime of many in this House. I have been astonished at the strength of the feeling which has been aroused in connection with this educational clause. My right hon. friend pleads that as this is the only clause in the Bill to which objection has been made, we must conclude that great consideration has been given to it. But, Mr. Speaker, the fact rather is that this educational clause so overshadows all the others that the other clauses have not received the criticism which they ought to get. It is stated in the newspapers without contradiction that this measure was left to four members of the cabinet—the First Minister, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick), the Secretary of State (Mr. Scott) and the Post-