

to the just demands of the people of a different faith, but, Sir, they teach us the history of our country, they teach us toleration, and they teach us to love all our fellow-citizens. And speaking of toleration, let me tell you what toleration there is in the province of Quebec. A short time ago I was speaking with a gentleman from Ontario and I told him that in the city whence I come, we elected Protestants to public offices, and the answer I got from him was that we did that because the Protestant and the Englishman was the best man. Well, Sir, there are good Protestants and there are good French Canadians, but when it comes to a choice with us we elect a Protestant because we want him to know that we are anxious he should live in our midst and that though we are in the majority, we believe that those of his religion should know that amongst us they are trusted citizens. Let me point out that in 1867 there was an election in the county of Beauce, a county which at that time had a population of 26,600, there being only 304 English-speaking Protestants in the county. An English Protestant named Pozer was elected for that county of Beauce by a majority of 530. Perhaps my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) will say that he was the better man of the two. Well, let me tell him that Mr. Pozer's opponent at that time was a Frenchman and a Catholic who is to-day the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Canada. In 1872 there was another election in Beauce and Mr. Pozer, a Protestant and an Englishman was elected by 1,150 majority over his French and Catholic opponent. His opponent at that time was not Sir Elzéar Taschereau, but Judge Blanchet of the Court of Appeals, the highest tribunal in the province of Quebec. At the next election in 1874, Mr. Pozer was elected by acclamation. That is toleration. Be it the result of separate schools or the result of anything else, it shows broad-mindedness and it shows that the French Canadian people have respect and sympathy for their fellow-citizens of the Protestant faith. Had it not been for some of the statements made by gentlemen on the other side of the House, I would not mention these things, because they are of so constant occurrence in the province of Quebec that we do not stop to notice them. In the constituency of St. Maurice and Three Rivers which I have the honour to represent, we have the reputation of being deep dyed and sincere Catholics, and out of a total population of 26,167 there are but 980 Protestants. For fifty years we had in the city of Three Rivers an Anglican and an English Canadian as Postmaster; for fifteen years his brother was the sheriff of the district; and the jailer of the city of Three Rivers, one of the best positions in the gift of the government, is a Methodist and an Irish Canadian.

Mr. URIAH WILSON. A good man.

Mr. BUREAU. Did you say he was a good man or a poor man?

Mr. URIAH WILSON. I said he was a good man.

Mr. BUREAU. I do not know whether he is a poor man or not, but I judge him by his worth as a citizen, and I know that he is a good man and an upright man. We have to-day as collector of customs in Three Rivers a Scotchman and a Presbyterian, and I may say he is a good man and a very good man. I mention these things merely to show that we who are accused of being priest-ridden and narrow-minded do not judge a fellow-citizen of ours by his religion or by his nationality or even by the number of dollars he may have in his pocket, but we look to his character and to his intellect and if we find him a respectable and worthy citizen we give him the credit and respect he is entitled to.

Mr. SPROULE. That proves that you know a good thing when you see it.

Mr. BUREAU. Quite true, but without any disparagement to my English and Protestant friends in Three Rivers, I may say that there are French Canadians there equally good, equally upright, and equally worthy citizens, but as a mark of deference to our Protestant fellow-countrymen we are anxious that they should realize that we place them on the same plane of equality with ourselves. I might cite another instance. The city council of Three Rivers—that city which, out of a population of 13,000 has only 300 Protestants—has always an English Protestant among its members. We never form a city council without electing—and always by acclamation—an English Protestant. Now, do not for a moment suppose that we do it because he happens to be the best man we have got. We do it from another motive. We do it as a mark of deference and to show our good feeling and sympathy towards those people who are living with us.

We had an appeal to arms from the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster). When I heard him disclaim these words:

There is no hand which can fasten the chain and drive the rivet that will encompass and restrict the young giants of the Northwest in years to come. You may carry your project through and the Finance Minister may cry peace, peace, but the moment it is carried through and made irrevocable, that moment begins against it the warfare of an unwilling people.

When I heard those words, I really expected the hon. gentleman to thrill his audience by following them up with the well known appeal: 'Give me liberty or give me death.' No doubt before the hon. member for North Toronto made that speech, he must have read Patrick Henry's allocution to his southern brothers to join the northern