

who stood so staunchly for provincial rights, the hon. Postmaster General, who stood as the valiant defender of provincial rights in 1896—surely we can depend upon him now if he would awake out of slumber. Any way we have four. We have the premier, who has declared himself, and it was not necessary that he should do so, as a gentleman who is a confirmed and staunch believer in separate schools. We have another gentleman, the Hon. Secretary of State. Some one has said that he is a Roman Catholic. That does not matter at all, but we have the hon. the Secretary of State. He is a Roman Catholic. We have this gentleman whose history is written in one long agitation for separate schools in this country, a gentleman, who, while discharging semi-judicial duties, was issuing a pamphlet for the guidance of the electors and the members of the House of Commons coloured to suit the case which we are opposing. We have then the Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) and in that hon. gentleman we have one who has declared himself honestly and fairly, as to the view he takes of this matter. It is, however, important, that, in considering the position of this question, in considering the attitude that the hon. Minister of Justice is likely to take on this matter, we should also consider the position that he stands in in regard to his pledge because he was one of those who did give a pledge in 1896. This is the pledge that the Minister gave and has more than once admitted frankly that he gave this pledge. He has told the House that he will stand by the pledge and that if he is called upon to redeem it, he will redeem it. I submit for your consideration, Mr. Speaker, if the time has not arrived by all indications that we see around us to-day in the city of Ottawa, both inside and outside this House, when the redemption of that pledge is being asked. It reads:

Being sincerely disposed to put aside all party spirit and all questions of men, in order to secure the triumph of the Catholic cause in Manitoba, I, the undersigned, promise, if elected, to conform myself to the bishops' mandement in all points and to vote for a measure according to the Catholics of Manitoba that justice to which they have a right by virtue of the judgment of the Privy Council, provided that the measure be approved of by my bishop. If Mr. Laurier reaches power and does not settle the question at the first session, in accordance with the terms of the mandement, I promise either to withdraw my support or resign.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Who signed that?

Mr. LENNOX. The hon. the Minister of Justice. The Minister of Justice has explained the position of the matter; he states that he is prepared to resign whenever the time comes, whenever the crucial period comes, when the premier denies or refuses to accord to the west the right to separate schools. It may be said perhaps

Mr. LENNOX.

that that referred to Manitoba. It does not refer to anything of the kind. The undertaking was otherwise. Here is one from Dr. Godbout:

I further promise to see that the same justice is rendered to the Catholics of the Northwest. Whatever government is in power, if the law which is introduced is accepted by the bishops, I promise to support it.

So that it was to apply to the west and to Manitoba as well, but the desire which seems to animate the premier to-day is to hedge around little Manitoba, circumscribe its boundaries, not to enlarge the area of national schools but to contract and circumscribe the area and extend the area of separate schools the position of which in the Territories is so much in advance of the privileges enjoyed by the province of Manitoba, that, as His Excellency, the Papal legate, points out, that unless the people of Manitoba will agree to amend their school law they cannot include in Manitoba those who enjoy a higher class of religious liberty under the aegis of the Roman Catholic church than that which the people of Manitoba are enjoying.

I have spoken of the hon. the Postmaster General. I see he is awake. It is for the country to consider, notwithstanding the attitude of the Postmaster General and his well known championship of provincial rights, whether there may be any temptation on his part to surrender the citadel. The matter was well timed for that. It has been a government notorious for 'supplanters.' The extent to which dissensions have imperilled the administration has been a disgrace to the government and when Esau, the hon. Minister of Finance was absent it was a good time, perhaps, to apply to the Postmaster General and without saying anything improper to impress upon his mind the grandeur and nobility of having a great mind such as his at the head of the affairs of Canada. and to point out that, after all it might be better that the Postmaster General should represent the Dominion of Canada in succession to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, than his rival the Minister of Finance who has evidently been aspiring to the position. Well! A vacancy was approaching, the plums were hanging above the head of the Postmaster General, his mouth was open and watering for them, and Jacob—the Postmaster General figuratively speaking—was willing in the absence of Esau to take the position, and so he capitulated to the seductive influences that surrounded him. Was that it? Or may it have been that the Postmaster General was actuated by a more noble ambition, and that he was anxious to secure the leadership of his party so that he might put an end to the iniquitous infringements of the independence of Parliament Act which we see occurring day after day. Or may it have been