

when to-morrow night the vote is taken on this question.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. All right.

Mr. BRODEUR. Now, I was discussing—

Mr. BENNETT. Greenway.

Mr. BRODEUR. I was discussing the question which was brought up the other day in Montreal by my hon. friend from Labelle and I was saying that if the minority has accepted the state of affairs which has existed since 1892, there is no reason why in this parliament we should go farther than what the minority has been accepting. Bishop Legal, who is certainly a good authority on this subject—

Mr. BOURASSA. Will the hon. gentleman permit me a word again? I am sorry to interrupt him so often, but as he has paid special attention to me, I suppose he will allow me an opportunity of expressing my opinion. As far as the right of interference by this parliament is concerned in respect to the Northwest Territories I was under the impression, as was expressed, I think, by Sir John Thompson himself, that so far as the Northwest Territories were concerned, this government had no power of remedial legislation, but simply the power of disallowance. The minority came here and asked for disallowance in 1892, and it was refused by the then government. It is only because they were refused this justice to which they were entitled that they accepted the I repeat in a nutshell that all I stated in Montreal was that the minority of the Northwest Territories are expecting from condition of affairs that then existed. But this parliament a full guarantee under the law of all they possess now and not simply the guarantee that this government may pass remedial legislation in respect to nine-tenths of what they are enjoying.

Mr. BRODEUR. For my part I rely on what the minority have been doing since 1892, and I say that they get some protection under the legislation which we are now passing. If the legislature undertakes later on to destroy or abolish separate schools, or to abolish the Catholic public schools, then there will be a remedy at the hands of this parliament and besides there will be the right of disallowance. My hon. friend says that Sir John Thompson declared that remedial legislation could not exist in regard to the Northwest Territories. I never knew of any such opinion being expressed—

Mr. BOURASSA. Under the Act of 1875.

Mr. BRODEUR. I have never heard of such an opinion being expressed, and I would be inclined to think that Sir John Thompson, if he did so express himself, was mistaken, because, in the statute of 1880 and the Revised Statutes of 1886, it was specially provided that section 93 should

apply to the Northwest Territories. Under section 93 the power of remedial legislation exists and if section 93 was incorporated in the law of 1880, and 1886, I claim that there was the right of remedial legislation. But, the minority did not go so far. They accepted the situation as it was.

Mr. BOURASSA. They had to.

Mr. BRODEUR. They accepted that state of affairs and I do not see why we should go into the province of Quebec and say the Catholics are asking for much more than is presented in this Bill.

I am sorry that I have detained the House so long. I had some other points that I wanted to make but I have kept the House so long that I think I will go no farther. We are now engaged in the consideration of a most serious question. Confederation, is now being submitted to a severe test. Old appeals on racial and religious grounds have been revived. We all remember how, a few years before confederation, these appeals contributed to render the government of Her Majesty absolutely impossible in this country. Governments lasting a few years, a few months, a few days, were succeeding themselves and none was strong enough to carry on the affairs of the country. In spite of the most prosperous times the development of the country was at a standstill. Some of these engaged most actively in that sectional warfare found one day that their unhappy policy was the cause of that unfortunate situation. They reflected and came to the conclusion that they had to lay down their arms and adopt a more sensible policy. Then, the confederation scheme was brought before the country. They thought that a confederation of all the British provinces would remedy the existing evil and they were right. Since confederation a spirit of toleration has animated the great men that have been at the head of both political parties. Macdonald, Campbell, Tupper, Tilley, Mackenzie and Blake always respected the creed and the views of the minority. Confederation developed in a most extraordinary way. New provinces were brought into the union, a vast territory was acquired, a great transcontinental railway was built, our canals and waterways were deepened, railways were subsidized throughout the country and millions have been spent to bring immigrants from all parts of the world. We are all glad to know that during the last few years Canada has developed in to one of the most prosperous nations of the world. It was expected that those sacred traditions of the Conservative party would be kept up and that we would continue to enjoy peace and harmony. But, unfortunately, a section of the Conservative party to-day is forgetting the lessons of history and refuses to give to the minority the rights to which they are entitled under the constitu-