

Should I be brought into power, as I doubt not I shall be, I will settle the question to the satisfaction of all interested parties, but after all should reconciliation fail I will have recourse to the means adopted by the constitution, and I will exercise them fully and in all their entirety.

Speaking at Lévis the right hon. gentleman said :

It is I, in the last resort, with the co-operation of Sir Oliver Mowat, who will mete out full justice to my co-religionists in Manitoba.

Has full justice been meted out to his co-religionists in Manitoba? Ask Archbishop Langevin? Read the very letter which Sir Wilfrid Laurier addressed to His Holiness the Pope in which he stated that the question was not settled and that he only regarded the settlement as the first instalment. During the campaign of 1896, the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) and many of his supporters made declarations before their bishops and promised that if they were elected and if Sir Wilfrid Laurier came into power and he did not at the first session pass remedial legislation, then they would withdraw their support from him. The candidate for Mégantic, Mr. Turcot, made the following declaration when he was a candidate for election in 1896 :

Considering that, by its judgment, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has definitely decided that, in law and in fact, the Catholic minority of Manitoba have a real grievance, and that they have a right to separate schools; considering the mandement of the bishops of the province of Quebec, which imposes upon the Catholics the obligation to vote for no other candidates than those who expressly bind themselves to pass legislation restoring to the Catholic minority of Manitoba the school rights which have been recognized as belonging to them by the Privy Council in England, I, the undersigned, a candidate at the present elections, expressly and solemnly promise to demand, and to vote for, the passing of remedial legislation which will place the Catholic minority of Manitoba in the fullest enjoyment of their rights. I further promise to do nothing which would place the government in a position in which it would be impossible for them to introduce such legislation or which might delay its passing.

(Sgd.) GEORGE TURCOT,
Candidate.

Ste. Julie de Somerset,
9th June, 1896.

Mr. COCHRANE. Did he get elected?

Mr. TAYLOR. Yes he was elected. Dr. Godbout, then a candidate for Beauce and a senator, made the following declaration :

County of Beauce, P.Q., June, 1896.

I, the undersigned, solemnly and expressly promise, agreeably to the mandement of the archbishops and bishops of the province of Quebec, to support in the House any measure which will efficaciously restore to the Catholics of Manitoba their schools, of which they have been deprived for the last six years; to use every effort to obtain for the Catholics their legitimate share of subsidies for the main-

Mr. TAYLOR.

tance of these schools; and to obtain from the government of Manitoba the recognition of the principles that the education given in these schools should be controlled by the clergy.

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.

DR. GODBOUT,
Candidate.

The hon. member for Gaspé (Mr. Lemieux) now Solicitor General, pledged himself as follows :

I, the undersigned, solemnly promise to vote in the House according to the desires expressed by their lordships in the recent pastoral.

The then Solicitor General (Mr. Fitzpatrick) now Minister of Justice made the following declaration :

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.

In explaining this declaration to the House the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) made use of the following language ('Hansard' 1897, page 183) :

I now proceed to discuss my own case—and my case, I admit, is one that hon. gentlemen opposite pronounce the most aggravated of the lot. It is one that has engrossed, at all events, the largest share of public attention. I may tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I gave the pledge which was read in the House, that I signed it, that I gave it voluntarily. I went of my own accord to my bishop and gave the pledge to him, as a Roman Catholic, dealing with the head of his church in the diocese to which he belonged. I gave it to him, and I mean to stand by it, let the consequences be what they may. I am speaking for myself alone, I am dealing with the pledge I gave, and I say that having given, having handed it over voluntarily to the bishop of the diocese to which I belong, from that day to this I have never been asked to account for that pledge which I gave, nor has my attention been ever drawn to the fact, up to the present time, that I have not fulfilled it, but the pledge was delivered over to the Tory party to be made use of for political purposes. Now, Sir, I attach some value to the position I occupy in this House, not because of my personal merit, but because of the favour and friendship of my honoured leader (Mr. Laurier), but more value do I attach by far to the good opinion of hon. members on both sides of this House—on the other side as well as on this—and if I am called upon, as I should have been called upon before, to say why I did not fulfil my pledge, I will feel that I have forfeited the confidence and respect of hon. gentle-