

conscience in the Dominion of Canada to-day is at the lowest stage it has ever been in the history of Canada.

Public sentiment is gone, honour is practically gone, and now they are endeavouring to disrupt and smash up our public school system and when any hon. gentleman stands up and opposes them the cry of intolerance is raised. If a man stands by his rights and opposes these iniquities, why he is intolerant. These are the charges that are made by certain hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House from time to time. More than that, we have seen the hon. Postmaster-General (Sir William Mulock) stand up and in place of replying to the argument advanced by my friend from North Toronto (Mr. Foster) read a lot of rigmarole stuff, debates in other Houses and adverse criticism of my hon. friend the ex-Minister of Finance and we have seen that sort of thing going on day after day in this House. We had the hon. member from Ottawa (Mr. Belcourt) the other night standing up adversely and unfairly criticising my hon. friend from North Toronto and bringing in arguments that had no force or effect and no bearing on the question before the House. That has been the policy of these hon. gentlemen throughout. They do not meet argument with argument or fact with fact, but seek like ink fish to cover the trail by improper references. This is not a question of what is right; it is simply a question of what is expedient. Abandon your principles, look to your pocket and position no matter who is injured. These are the maxims of the hon. gentlemen opposite. Pay no attention to the pledges given to the people. They are made to be broken. The maxims of the government are simply trampled under foot. The principles for which freemen have fought in all ages are taken as naught. Secret intrigue takes the place of free discussion and free conference among the members of the government and among the members of the party. Is there a minister in his place to-night who can stand up and conscientiously say that he was consulted about that clause? A great party following the principles of constitutional and responsible government and yet, besides a paltry little committee of the cabinet, not one member of the government, not one of their following in the House, not one member of the territorial legislature and not one of the members from the west, although only fresh from the country, is consulted as to this clause, although it is said that we are living under constitutional government. Why, the Czar of Russia, surrounded by the grand dukes, would not attempt to pass that sort of legislation. It is worse than taxation without representation which caused the American war. Now, the policy laid down by the First Minister, as well as the second or amended clause, imposes the will of other portions of Canada on the western freemen. It imposes it in

defiance of the constitution of the country and it establishes a principle of federal interference in purely provincial matters which has always been avoided in connection with the government in Canada heretofore. It establishes separate schools in the Northwest Territories and perpetuates the union of church and state in that great country.

Now, we have heard our hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) point out, in the course of his speech, a great many things, some of them nonsensical and many of them very untrue and incorrect. I shall take the opportunity of running through a few of the choice extracts from his speech. In one of these he makes an appeal to the English-speaking majority in this country and says: Consider what the French Canadians in the past have done for the development of this country. He makes the same mistake as the hon. member from Montmagny (Mr. Lavergne) of believing that we are dealing with the province of Quebec, or that the whole Dominion is the province of Quebec, or vice versa, the province of Quebec is the whole Dominion. Let me inform him that the province of Quebec is only a portion of the Dominion, and a very small portion, although a very important one. He says that:

Sir, when the English settlers of His Majesty were still on the banks of the Atlantic and had not crossed the Ohio and the Missouri, French Canadian priests, French Canadian traders and settlers had opened up that country.

Slightly exaggerated, but let me tell that hon. gentleman that had it not been for the schools which he is advocating to-day and the system which he is endeavouring to perpetuate in this country the continent of North America would largely have been under the control of the French people to-day. Anterior to the date referred to by him free Frenchmen had planted colonies in Brazil, in the coast of Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas, prosperous colonies of free Frenchmen, but these colonies were blotted out by the connivance of the French government engineered by the same system that he wishes to perpetuate in the Northwest Territories, and the label over the graves of the thousands of men who were massacred in cold blood was this: 'This is not done as to Frenchmen, but as to Lutherans.' Had it not been for the interference of an organization such as he is endeavouring to force on the west the whole continent of North America would have been colonized by free Frenchmen—the word 'French' means free—and we would not have had the improper struggles that are now dividing this country. I commend these notions to my hon. friend from Labelle. Another point he dwelt upon was this—I shall not take up his reference to rebellion to any great extent—but he spoke about twenty times in reference to rebellion—the rebellion in the Northwest Territories of 1885, the rebellion in Manitoba—and he seemed to regret that there did not spring