

which are not of a nature to induce a spirit of toleration. But, in Quebec, as well as in Ottawa, the French-speaking members are swayed solely by principles of justice and fair play.

Now what do we hear from parties most concerned in the matter? What is the stand taken by the majority, what is the stand taken by the minority in these North-west provinces? Of the various minorities to be found in the western country the Catholic minority is the most deeply concerned; they it is who we should consult, they it is who will protest if protests are in order. Have they not done so in 1893 and 1894? There also do we find leading men who, of course, are better informed as to the needs of the people of the west than can possibly be the firebrands at work in the province of Quebec and elsewhere. And what do we find? We find that they express satisfaction at the present state of things. Should not their views prevail over those of outsiders who point out to treachery and surrender of the rights of the minority?

I for 'one, Mr. Speaker, am of opinion that our fellow countrymen and fellow-believers in the west have not been granted all the rights and privileges to which they are fairly entitled. But, in a country with a mixed population, honourable compromises should not be spurned, especially when, on looking back into the past I find that the present government is not responsible for the existing condition of things, and that the reasons which induced the late government to ratify the ordinances of the North-west Territories legislature in 1892 still exist. Is not compromise, is not conciliation the best way out of the difficulty, when other means fail and the majority are against us? In 1892, the minority had a feeling that they were downtrodden, and that they could not get along under the new ordinances. However, subsequent events showed that their fears had been exaggerated, and it seems as if things had been going on pretty smoothly as regards educational matters in those great western plains.

Another very striking circumstance was the return of the member for Alberta, the Hon. Mr. Oliver, on the occasion of his promotion to the position of Minister of the Interior. The minority had there a unique opportunity for asserting their rights; on the other hand Protestants were given the same opportunity of making known their views, of carrying on the holy crusade begun by the hon. members for East Grey, for South York and for Victoria. Now, there was no agitation carried on, neither on the one side or on the other. Is not this unanimity of opinion a proof that people in the west live in a state of peace and these people more deeply concerned in the question than the members for East Grey, for Victoria and for South York, who

though strangers to that province would fain make us believe that they are better acquainted with the needs of the people out there than the very parties concerned.

The leader of the opposition, in his amendment, contends that we are invading the rights of the new provinces, and insists that we should leave to them the exclusive right of legislature in reference to educational matters, as well as in reference to all others. Residents in the west do not seem to worry as to that either, and the return by acclamation of the Hon. Mr. Oliver, in one of the western constituencies, is clear evidence of the state of peace which prevails in those quarters.

Let me give here, Mr. Speaker, a further proof of what I have just stated. The following is an extract of the Edmonton 'Journal,' a Conservative organ, regarding the Bills now before us:—

It seems as though the educational clauses of the Autonomy Bills were to give occasion to inflammatory appeals to racial and religious prejudices. In the interest of Western Canada, such a contingency is to be deeply deplored. Heretofore the main object of western people has been to build up a free and united province, to profit by the experience of old Canada to reduce to a minimum the occasions of friction between followers of various creeds, to insist with calm on the necessity of equal rights for all citizens, without vainly clamouring for provincial rights, but resting our confidence in the wise decision of the western members and in the breadth of mind of the political leaders, for the settlement of that question.

Two new provinces will be added to the Dominion of Canada, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Within these two new provinces, there are Catholics and French Canadians. Their numbers, already large, will always go on increasing, and they will be there, along the banks of the Saskatchewan. What they have been along the shores of the St. Lawrence; loyal citizens, respectful of law, lovers of peace and harmony; and if that race proves as prolific in those great western plains as it is in the province of Quebec, we will have before long the spectacle of a compact body of these sturdy settlers advancing hand in hand along the path of progress, not only as regards agriculture, but as regards industry, and worthily playing their part in public affairs. And do we know what the future has in store for us? Possibly, some day to come, our English speaking and other fellow-citizens may witness with admiration, a second battle of Chateauguay in that country, which, perhaps, has in store for us in the near future, surprises as great as its agricultural wealth. For who can say that those French Canadians, whom a few bigots are anxious to injure to-day, will not be the last to remain loyal to the Canadian government, and to the British Crown? I believe it was Lord Elgin who wrote that, the last man to uphold the