

ister of Customs (Hon. Wm. Paterson), the present Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir Richard Cartwright), together with nearly every one of their supporters rose in their places and opposed the Remedial Bill which Sir Charles Tupper had introduced giving relief to the minority in Manitoba and they fought it so strenuously that by the effluxion of time, parliament had almost expired and Sir Charles had to abandon the Bill. Sir Charles then became Prime Minister and appealed to the country. One of the planks in the Conservative platform was that if elected to power they would pass remedial legislation. I appealed to my constituents as a supporter of Sir Charles Tupper and of the Remedial Bill—and this should be an answer to my hon. friend from Three Rivers (Mr. Bureau)—representing as I said before, one of the strongest Orange and Protestant constituencies in Ontario, I appealed to these constituents as a supporter of the Remedial Bill for the relief of the minority in Manitoba and a supporter of Sir Charles Tupper and I was returned by the largest majority I ever obtained save and except that in the last election.

Mr. BUREAU. That just confirms what I have heard, that most of the Orangemen are Tories. I did not state it this afternoon.

Mr. TAYLOR. In the constituency I have the honour to represent we have two lodges exclusively Reform. They now belong to my hon. friend from Brockville (Mr. Derbyshire) and each of them voted as before, against me.

Mr. BUREAU. Then they are improving.

Mr. TAYLOR. But as I stated before, although I have about 800 Roman Catholic and French voters in my constituency, after having taken my political life in my hands on two occasions to uphold legislation in their interest, first in the Quebec question of the Jesuit estates and then in the case of the remedial legislation for Manitoba, when one might reasonably suppose that out of these 800 Catholic votes I would receive at least some support, I am bound to say that I did not receive 15 votes out of the 800. Sir Charles Tupper and his candidates throughout the Dominion, and particularly in Quebec were on that occasion fighting to uphold the rights of the minority on a question that was of especial interest to the people of Quebec. Yet what support did they receive in Quebec? Sir Charles came back here with a following of seven from that province; in the same way all over the province of Ontario and the other provinces the Roman Catholic support did not go to Sir Charles or his candidates, and the result was that my hon. friend the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) carried the country. How was this state of affairs brought about? The Prime Minister, then

Wilfrid Laurier, went through the west and through Ontario crying: 'Hands off Manitoba,' 'No coercion,' 'Provincial rights must be sustained' and he made the Protestants of the west and of Ontario believe that he was fighting the hierarchy of his own church. Let me read a quotation from a speech delivered by him on June 12, 1896, at Toronto.

An hon. MEMBER. Was it not the 12th of July?

Mr. TAYLOR. No, it was the 12th of June; I daresay he would have made a speech on the 12th of July, just as strong or stronger. The hon. gentleman said:

For my part I do not hesitate to tell you that I am a French Canadian, a Roman Catholic. I make no boast about it. I have strong sympathy with the minority; I wished they had back their privileges, but as I am of the minority, I will tell you this: As I would not be coerced by anybody, I would not impose coercion on anybody.

How does that quotation suit my hon. friend from Shefford (Mr. Parmelee) after the laudations that he piled on the Prime Minister's head. There he is as a statesman says: As I would not let anybody coerce me, I will not coerce anybody. What is he doing to-day out in the two new provinces he is forming? Coercing anybody? He is coercing the whole bunch, as my hon. friend (Mr. Herron) stated here to-day. Many leading Orangemen of that day, many strong Protestants during the canvass of 1896, told me that they would rather trust Wilfrid Laurier than Sir Charles Tupper, that Sir Charles Tupper would do more for the Roman Catholics than Sir Wilfrid Laurier would do, because he was fighting the hierarchy of his own church. That was the opinion generally expressed throughout Ontario and the result was that many strong Protestants who formerly had been Conservatives, many Orangemen who formerly have been Conservatives voted for him and with a pretty solid Catholic vote, the right hon. gentleman was carried into power. What did the Prime Minister say to the people of Quebec during the elections of 1896? Did he tell them there would be no separate schools? No, he said that if elected he would send a commission headed by Sir Oliver Mowat, to Manitoba, to ascertain the facts and settle the question, and if that failed then he would pass stronger remedial legislation than that proposed by Sir Charles Tupper. He said to his French co-religionists in the province of Quebec: You can surely trust me rather than a Protestant like Sir Charles Tupper.

Mr. BELCOURT. He never said that; you are drawing on your imagination.

Mr. TAYLOR. He did say it, and I quote from the 'Hansard' of 1897, Volume 1, page 197, the following words uttered by the Prime Minister: