

the Northwest Territories in regard to the educational clauses, except the complaint that came from the minority when the ordinances of 1892 were passed. There has been no complaint from the Protestant body in the Northwest Territories up to the time when this Bill was introduced.

Now, I have occupied more of the time of the House than I had intended to. As I stated at the outset, I feel that this is a very troublesome question, it is a question that we should approach without feeling, a question that we should approach as Canadians and deal with in the way we consider most likely to promote the interest of our common country. We have debated this question a long time and, from all accounts, we are likely to debate it for some time longer. I would like to have seen some way to have the question settled. The way I have suggested, I think, is one that would meet with the approval of the country. I do not believe that Canadians want an issue of this kind. We do not want to be compelled to discuss again the issues raised years ago in this Dominion. We want to settle these matters fairly and squarely. Surely we are able to meet in a fair spirit of compromise. For my part, I believe that the minority, if they are constitutionally right, have made a fair compromise from their standpoint. They have accepted amendments of this Bill which do away, as I believe, with all possibility of having clerical schools, of having what they consider separate schools, and which simply gives to them the same right that every other citizen in the Northwest has of participating in a national system of schools and in the right of teaching religion—and they conscientiously consider that to be a right which they should have, and one which should be carried out in the education of the youth. I repeat, we should be able to deal with this question in a fair spirit of compromise. I should be very sorry to see in this Dominion an election on these issues. We had these issues years ago, and I had fondly hoped that the day had passed when they would arise in Canada again. We had them in the province of Ontario but to-day we have harmony and peace and it is by harmony and peace that this great confederation can be welded into a union one and inseparable. And I wish to say this: That the Protestants of the province of Ontario, I believe, are just as generous, just as liberal as any other class in the Dominion of Canada. And I want to say just one word to my French Canadian friends, some of whom, no doubt, feel that the Conservative party were not as liberal, not as ready to squarely concede their rights as the Liberal party were. I want simply to say that it remained for the Conservative party of the province of Ontario to place Dr. Rheame as one of the ministers of the Crown for that province. A great deal has been said in this debate which, I think, might better have been left unsaid. It is

Mr. PRINGLE.

not for me to say a word in regard to the French Canadian people. Every Canadian who has read the history of his country knows that we owe a great deal to the French Canadians. Every such Canadian knows that we owe a great deal to the hierarchy, that have been—I will not say abused—but of which many things have been said in this House. When we go back in history to the beginning of confederation, where then was the hierarchy to be found? They were united in the effort to consolidate and build up the Dominion of Canada. If they issued any pastoral at that time, it was issued to their own people and in support of the men who were standing out to have a united Canada. But it is unnecessary for me to say any of these things. Every Canadian knows that we owe a great deal to the French Canadian people of Canada. But I want to say for my own province that our people are liberal, our people are generous, and I believe that when this question comes before them, and is discussed, you will find our people just as reasonable as any other class of people in this great Dominion.

Mr. H. H. MILLER (South Grey). Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to take up the attention of the House as a new member in discussing this Bill, a measure of so great importance, a measure that has provoked in this country an interest so extraordinary, so unusual and so great. I find this Bill assailed principally at two points: First, as to the advisability of this parliament retaining in its own hands control of the public lands in the proposed new provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta; secondly, as to the educational clauses in the Bill. Regarding the question of the lands, I have not given the matter sufficient thought or study, nor am I sufficiently well acquainted with the conditions that prevail in the west, to advance any argument or to express any opinion that would be of value to this House. Therefore I will not attempt either to advance an argument or to express an opinion. I merely wish to read an extract from a letter I have received from a gentleman residing in the west in what will be the new province of Alberta. This letter is one of a series that I have received from the same gentleman in the course of a business correspondence. It is dated on the 2nd of January, before any one in this country knew what would be the policy of this government in regard to these lands. The writer of the letter is a gentleman that I have known for twenty years, a graduate of an Ontario university, from which he obtained his bachelor of arts degree, and he is now occupying an important public position in the Northwest. When I say a public position, I do not mean a position in any way connected with or dependent upon this parliament or any other legislative body. This gentleman, I may say, has been all