

House. With regard to the system of schools in the province of Quebec, I must say that when we look at the facts and results of those schools, we have nothing to be ashamed of. I think our system of schools can compare with any other system in the Dominion of Canada. If I remember rightly, the system of schools in the province of Quebec took the first prize at the World's Fair of 1893 at Chicago, and I think it was awarded some medals at the World's Fair in Paris in 1900; and I may say this, in answer to a reverend gentleman—I think it was Dr. Salton—who, speaking in Ottawa, said that the morality of Quebec was lower than that of any other province of the Dominion.

Let me give you a few statistics, showing the proportion of convictions in each province. In British Columbia we had one conviction to every 56 inhabitants; in the Northwest Territories one in every 77; in Ontario one in 114; in Manitoba one in 115; in New Brunswick one in 144; in Nova Scotia one in 154. And in that fearfully backward province of Quebec, we have only one conviction in every 176 inhabitants. May I then be permitted to say that our province can not be so very far behind in the race, judging by the statistics under this head. Then if we take the expenditure since 1900, we find that the province of Quebec is, in the matter of expenditure on public education, far ahead of any province in the Dominion. If my hon. friend denied that, I have the figures right here. But I shall not weary the House by going into them. I may say too that the number of illiterates has decreased in the province of Quebec in a proportion far greater than in any other province of the Dominion; and I am sorry to say that in that province, where we have abolished separate schools, the province of New Brunswick, the number of illiterates has increased. If my hon. friends from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) or South York (Mr. Maclean) will go to the province of Quebec, as we are not afraid to go to the province of Ontario; if they would go before the public of that province as my hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) has gone before the public of Toronto and Kingston and other places in Ontario—if they would come to my poor riding—they would see these schools where the pupils are not all stupid. They would see a few presbyteries where the priests are not totally illiterate but men of culture and learning, who take an interest in the education of their province. If the hon. member for South York would only come to the province of Quebec, he would see that we have there 5,000 primary schools, 600 superior primary schools, 3 normal schools, one engineering school, 3 schools of agriculture, also institutions for the blind, the deaf and the dumb—I hope my hon. friends opposite would go to one of these institutions and be treated for the first of these diseases. These are facts which any

province would be proud to put before the parliament of Canada. But those hon. gentlemen would sooner shut their eyes and appeal in their newspapers to public passion than take the opportunity to obtain a little enlightenment.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if I ever made any reflection on the public schools of the province of Quebec.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. I am not charging my hon. friend with having made any such reflections in this House, but I say that he ought to go to the province of Quebec and learn something about educational matters in this country of ours.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Will the hon. gentleman let me say that I spend nearly every summer in the province of Quebec and have often been in those presbyteries to which he has referred. I have met the reverend gentlemen in charge of them, and have found them to be such as my hon. friend says they are, so that he is giving me no enlightenment on that subject. He is instead putting me in the position of having said things which I did not say.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. I do not know whether my hon. friend wishes here to escape responsibility for the brutal cartoons published in his newspaper the Toronto 'World'—cartoons in which the province of Quebec is represented as an illiterate Indian and the people of the Northwest as most intelligent, civilized, and claiming they are white men. What does that mean if it does not mean that the inhabitants of the province of Quebec are of mixed origin? Sir, I would be prouder to have in my veins the blood of the noble red man than the blood of some hon. gentlemen opposite who write in the Toronto 'World.' I would wish that every British colony and every province of this Dominion were peopled by inhabitants of as pure an origin and with as pure blood in their veins as the French inhabitants of the province of Quebec. I would wish that they could trace as good a genealogy as any inhabitant of that province is able to trace, not only in this country but in the country of his forefathers. The cartoons published in the Toronto 'Globe' are bold, brutal, stupid and as untrue as they are stupid. It appears now that my hon. friend from South York would lead us to infer that he does not approve of those cartoons, but I do not know that he has ever gone back on them.

But supposing the schools of the province of Quebec were as bad as they are described by hon. members opposite and by some people who write in the Ontario papers, I say that if we have a system of schools in the province of Quebec at all we have a right to-day to be proud, because after the treaty of Paris in 1763, when the last ship for France took away from our shores the nobility and the rich people and left be-