

the platforms of the city of Toronto of late ; and that is the reason why I am now speaking on this Bill.

The first feature of the Bill to which I wish to draw your attention has reference to the ownership of the lands. It has been said that the lands should be owned by the provinces themselves. That may be true in many cases ; but in view of the fact that this government has expended so much money in bringing the proper kinds of immigrants into this country, and has got the immigration system on a good basis, we surely ought to leave that matter in the hands of those who have brought it to such a successful issue. We want the best class of immigrants we can have in this country, and I believe the government are exercising precautions to secure that class. We have never before had such a rush of immigrants into this country as we have to-day. We are delighted to have so many coming from the American union—our own Canadian sons coming back to live with us again and bringing their families with them, and others who went from European countries to the United States and graduated in the school of agriculture there and learned how to farm on a system suitable to a prairie country. These are the kind of people we want, and when this government is doing so much to bring them, why should we not leave the immigration in their hands ? The only way we can do that is to leave in their hands the control of the lands.

There is another thing which we should take into consideration. You know that we have in the Northwest a large extent of country which is very fertile, provided it is supplied with fresh water by means of a proper system of irrigation. There are millions of acres of that kind of lands in the west and we want to see these lands brought into the best possible state of cultivation. They are being settled by a thrifty class of people, progressive farmers who are doing well on these lands and we want to have it clear for all time to come that there shall be a sufficient amount of water for proper irrigation there. This brings us into direct antagonism with some of the States of the American Union. There are some streams which originate in the United States and flow into our country and difficulties are already cropping up between this country and the border states. Surely we ought to have this matter in the hands of the Canadian government so that they will be able to take hold of it and carry it through to a successful issue.

There is one feature in particular about which I wish to speak, that is the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba. Not much has been said of late about the extension of her boundaries to the west because as has been made quite apparent by the members from the west the people in that portion of the Territories do not want to have themselves annexed to the province of Mani-

toba. But there is a more serious feature about this question, that is the extension of her boundaries to the east. Here is the serious feature of that question. Reports have been sent broadcast that this extension of the boundaries of the province of Manitoba to the east is being taken advantage of by the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Canada in order to secure an extension of the facilities for separate schools in Manitoba, and the worst feature of it is that an attempt is being made to cause the belief that the Prime Minister has been a party to the intrigue, and that he was responsible for the interview between the Manitoba ministers and Monseigneur Sbarretti, the Papal ablegate, that he is the man who is responsible for having this agreement attempted and by which an increase of territory should be granted to Manitoba on condition that the Roman Catholics in Manitoba should be given increased privileges in regard to separate schools in that province. I am exceedingly anxious that this thing should be set in its proper light before the people of Ontario because if these newspapers in the city of Toronto and these speakers on the platform at Toronto who are sending broadcast through Ontario this infamous news and trying to antagonize the good people of this province, against the good people of Quebec and our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens in Manitoba. I wish to read you the exact words which the Prime Minister used in refuting this statement. He said :

Before I proceed any further, I may say at once, referring to the whole tenor of this document, that in so far as there is a charge that there was an understanding between Monseigneur Sbarretti and myself to have the school question considered in connection with the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba, there is not a shadow nor a tittle of truth in it. Mr. Rogers uses this language :

It is certainly idle for any person to assume that Monseigneur Sbarretti, occupying the position he does, would presume to make the suggestion of terms and conditions which he did without the full knowledge and consent of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues.

I assert that if Mr. Rogers states that Monseigneur Sbarretti did press him to make the suggestion of terms and conditions which he says Monseigneur Sbarretti did with my knowledge, he states something which is not in accordance with truth. If that has taken place it has taken place without my participation, and I never heard of it in any way whatever until last Saturday, when the matter was brought to my notice by a telegram from the Toronto 'Globe.' Then Mr. Rogers goes on to say :

I am delighted to know and I think every one of my friends in Ontario is delighted to know that the Prime Minister was able to give such an emphatic denial to this as he did and I wish to have it felt throughout Ontario that we should have just the same amount of respect and trust the Prime Minister to the same degree now, as we