

into this parliament to give any additional rights or privileges I would not vote for it, but, that if the Bill merely perpetuated the rights that the minorities already have, and have enjoyed with so much peace and prosperity and good feeling in that country, I would give such a measure my vote and my support. I have arrived at this conclusion without considering what is likely to be the political fate either of the party to which I belong or of myself; but simply in an endeavour to do what I consider to be right, to do what would appeal to my own intelligence and to my conscience, and, having arrived at that opinion and that conclusion to stand by it. I believe there are others just as honest and just as wise as I who think differently, and think me in error. I have no doubt but that there are many among my own constituents who would have been better pleased had I arrived at a different conclusion and decided to vote in a different way. But, Sir, to my friends and to my supporters at home, as well as to the people everywhere, I, on this point beg leave to quote the words of the Rt. Hon. John Bright, that good old Quaker statesman of England, words spoken more than fifty years ago to his own constituents in the city of Manchester. John Bright said:

I tell you honestly that notwithstanding that there is not a man in England that has a higher idea of the exalted position of any one who at all worthy should occupy the place of your representative, yet when I speak of a vote in parliament I endeavour to shut out from my mind any idea of controlling influence down here or elsewhere. I am most happy when I can to agree with you, but I think there is a higher, loftier and purer standard for a representative than even the influence of those whom he may represent, and that standard is his own intelligent, conscientious conviction of duty on the question which is before him.

Sir, I admit, I cheerfully and gladly admit that I am exceedingly pleased that this legislation has been introduced in such shape as to permit me without any hesitation, without any reluctance, without any misgiving, to give my support to the right hon. the Prime Minister, by whom the Bill was introduced. During the past few weeks, some unpleasant things; I think some extravagant, undeserved, unkind, and ungenerous things have been said of the able leader of the party to which I belong. Some have spoken deliberately, others have spoken hastily. Some have spoken honestly, others have spoken maliciously; and it may be that some have spoken in the press and pulpit yielding to the temptation to ride on, what appeared to be for the time, the crest of a popular wave. But, Sir, at this juncture I am pleased to quote the words of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's biographer; words written by Mr. Willison; written at a time when some of us at least think that Mr. Willison's judgment was just as good and his honesty

of purpose just as great as they are to-day. Mr. Willison says of the Prime Minister:

Moderation is the keynote of all his career and the secret of all his achievements. He learned at the threshold of his public life that a statesman must resist popular clamour and stand impervious to momentary gusts of popular passion, and that all enduring achievement must be based in the reason rather than in the emotions of the people.

Sir, I am glad; I am exceedingly glad that the premier so early in his political career learned that lesson and learned it so well. I am thankful, Sir, and the people of Canada will have cause to be thankful and I doubt not will be thankful, that this lesson has not been forgotten by Sir Wilfrid Laurier even to the present day. And, Sir, I do not doubt but that to-morrow and throughout the to-morrows of the century, and long into centuries to come, history and men will say, that when Mr. Willison wrote these words:

Sir Wilfrid Laurier's public career is remarkable for consistent and unchanging devotion to three great objects: the assertion and maintenance of the principle of federalism, ardent and unflinching championship of civil and religious freedom, patient and courageous resistance to the denationalizing tendencies of racialism, sectarianism and provincialism.

These words were true, and that they remained not the less true to the very end of the brilliant career of that distinguished gentleman whose ability has never been equalled by any other Canadian statesman. Indeed Sir, I think it may be said, that his pure life, his integrity of purpose, his great loyalty and his whole-hearted devotion to his country's best interests have scarcely been surpassed by any other man in this or any other land in this or any other age.

Sir, I have quoted from John Bright; John Bright, a name than which there is not another more honoured in England; John Bright, a name that shines out as brightly as any other in political history. I remember that there was a time in the life of John Bright when he was mobbed and hooted and burned in effigy, because that he, in his day, as the Prime Minister of Canada in this day, spoke for peace while others clamoured for strife. I have quoted from Mr. Willison; I have read with a great deal of pleasure and I trust with considerable profit the biography written by Mr. Willison and published but two short years ago, a biography written in two volumes of between 400 and 500 pages each, and I read upon almost every page of that biography expressions from Mr. Willison of admiration for and confidence in the Prime Minister of Canada admiration because of his purity of life, because of his nobleness of purpose, because of his splendid ability; because of his great courage, and particularly for the courage that Mr. Willison assures us the Prime