

That whereas the Liberal party has always taken strong ground on the question of provincial rights; and

Whereas all matters pertaining to education are by the British North America Act delegated to the provinces;

Therefore, we, the Executive of the Liberal Association of Centre Toronto, desire to place ourselves on record as being of the opinion that the government should expunge entirely the clauses from the Autonomy Bills relating to education, and that all matters pertaining to education be left entirely to the new provinces.

This is a voice from the right hon. gentleman's own party in the city of Toronto. The right hon. gentleman might issue the writ for an election in Centre Toronto and test the question. Then we would see whether or not this Reform Association expresses the views of the people regardless of politics in that great city. I am reading these extracts because I think they are stronger than any statement I could make to show why the people of this country were aroused when the right hon. gentleman introduced this measure. The Toronto 'Globe' of March 8, 1905, has a long article which I will not stop to read. It is well known throughout the country that the Toronto 'Globe' is very much opposed to the educational clauses in the Bill, and in this article it warns the government not to force them through parliament. Then, I have a heading of the Toronto 'News' of March 14, and continued from day to day: 'A Free West, A Common School, Provincial Rights and Religious Equality.' With that I may give a statement from the editor of this important and valuable independent journal, who, I may say, is a personal friend of the right hon. Prime Minister. Indeed, I think he wrote his life some little time ago.

An hon. MEMBER. A part of it.

Mr. BLAIN. A part of it, I mean. My hon. friend says he may not get out a second edition. The editor of the 'News,' Mr. J. S. Willison, speaking on the school question, made this statement:

He took the ground that nowhere was education provided by separate schools as efficient as the public schools, and many Roman Catholic citizens and lay Catholic educationists were gravely dissatisfied with the conditions of elementary Catholic education in this province. The future of Canada depended largely on the measure of success achieved in resolving the many nationalities which compose the population into common Canadian citizenship, and it was vain to argue that such a process could be served by a school system which tended for separation rather than union.

That is the statement of the editor of the independent Toronto 'News,' which is doing so much service for the people of Canada at the present time. I have here the authority of the Huntingdon 'Gleaner,' published in the province of Quebec, and which, if I am correctly informed, is one of the

leading English speaking journals of that province.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, no.

Mr. BLAIN. My hon. friends say no, but I rather think I am correct in that statement because in the earlier days, before my right hon. friend came into the House, it was quoted very often in the interest of the Reform party. Dealing with the statement of the First Minister that the Protestants in the province of Quebec have nothing to complain of, the editor writes as follows:

How does the premier reconcile this declaration of his with the fact that the English-speaking people outside of the island of Montreal have largely disappeared and are continuing to disappear? Whole townships, settled by them and which prospered under them, are to-day French. Protestant churches are to be found in which no service is held and that the spot where Protestants were buried for three generations and more are now to be found in the corners of farms of French Canadians. In only one of the counties that compose the Eastern Townships have the Protestants a majority, yet once they had absolute control. Do men throw up their farms and leave a province where they have no cause of complaint? Let Sir Wilfrid explain this—the extraordinary spectacle of a people abandoning the land of their birth, to which they are bound by every tie of affection and patriotism, to seek new homes in the United States, for the proportion has been trifling who have gone to our Northwest. What is it they find under an alien flag they could not in the province of Quebec? We want no rhetorical generalities, no vapouring about justice and toleration. Here is a plain problem—Why are the Protestant farmers of the province of Quebec going away? Do men flee a province where they have no cause of complaint?

There is no more saddening aspect in the condition of our province than the groups of Protestant children to be found here and there all over it destitute of the means of acquiring the elements of education, and threatening us with a coming generation of Protestant farmers as ignorant as Russian moujiks. This is a fruit of separate schools. If we had national schools, instead of sectarian schools, no child in the province would be without opportunity to learn to read and write. Another consequence of these sectarian schools should never be lost sight of, and that is, where Protestant farmers are too few to have a school, they are taxed to support Catholic schools, which, sometimes, have as their teachers nuns and Christian brothers. There are hundreds of Protestant farmers who are forced either to support Catholic schools or sell out.

That is the statement of the Huntingdon 'Gleaner,' and I commend it to the consideration of my right hon. friend.

At six o'clock, House took recess.

After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. BLAIN. Before you left the chair, Mr. Speaker, I was giving some quotations