

estants of Quebec and what I would be ready to stand for if there were any disposition to deprive the Protestant minority of Quebec of their rights. When my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture was making that fine appeal to Protestants and Catholics in this House which he made on the second reading of the Bill and when he was pointing out the generous treatment which was given to the Protestants of Quebec I heard a member of this House make the remark that perhaps if we did less for the Protestants of Quebec it would be better. I denounce that kind of argument, but I am afraid it is going to be the kind of argument which is going to be heard later on. The Liberal papers of the province of Quebec denounce me as an unfaithful supporter of the government, they say that I am a demagogue, they say that I am not a man fit for a country like this which is composed of Protestants and Catholics, and it is said that perhaps if we did a little less for the fanatical Protestants of Quebec it would be better. That is not my policy. There is only one kind of justice and that kind of justice must be the same for all. Even if all the provinces treated us as we have been treated in the Northwest Territories I would still say that I am ready to treat the Protestant minority of the province of Quebec with justice and generosity. If this country is to last and to achieve greatness it is not by trying to find within the four corners of an article of the constitution in what way we may deprive a minority of a privilege or a right. If this country is to last it will only be by adopting the principle of equal rights and equal justice for all, and therefore, standing upon that ground, I move, seconded by my hon. friend from Montmagny (Mr. Lavergne) that clause 16 be struck out, and the following be substituted therefor:

The provisions of section 93 of the British North America Act, 1867, shall apply to the said province as if, at the date upon which this Act comes into force, the territory comprised therein were already a province, the expression 'the union' in the said section being taken to mean the said date.

2. In the appropriation by the legislature of public moneys in aid of education, or in the distribution by the government of the province of any moneys arising from the school fund established by the Dominion Lands Act, there shall be no discrimination against the schools of any kind organized according to law.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Is that the same as the original section or is there some change?

Mr. BOURASSA. It is substantially the same as the original section without the middle paragraph.

Mr. SPROULE. I thought that perhaps the Prime Minister had some observations to make and desired to give him an opportunity of doing so, but as he has not I wish to address the House. The conclusion to which I came, after listening to the member for Labelle

(Mr. Bourassa) and his trenchant criticism of his friends on that side, was that they were very much like the old man and the boy with the ass; they were trying to please everybody and succeeded in pleasing nobody and lost that important animal. That is about where they are to-night. The Prime Minister said the Conservative party had no policy on this question. We thought the Conservative party offered a resolution to this House embodying their policy. They imagined that is what they were doing and voted on it and have a record.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Who voted on it?

Mr. SPROULE. The House, the Conservative party voted on it certainly as the members of the government voted for it. In the face of that it cannot be successfully asserted that they have no policy. That policy embodied the principle for which they stood. The Prime Minister followed that up by saying that in the matter of education there is no such thing as absolute provincial rights for any province. That is not the ground taken a few years ago by the Reform party, all over the country, especially in Ontario, we were confronted with the argument on every platform both in provincial and Dominion elections, that the Reform party stood for provincial rights absolutely.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Hear, hear.

Mr. SPROULE. And in enumerating these rights in connection with the Streams Bill, with minerals, with public lands, with timber, the right to control education was included; they were all put in the same category and all read out of the same list. These were the provincial rights for which the Reform party stood, which the Reform papers advocated and which carried that party into power in Ontario time after time. It was on the same principle of provincial rights that the Reform party stood in 1896, when they fought the Conservative party on the question of remedial legislation in Manitoba. It was not contended then that the provinces had not absolute and sole right in regard to education except in Ontario and Quebec, because it was claimed that the provisions in regard to those two provinces did not apply to the others and it was only in connection with the debate, which took place within the last few months that the contention has been put forward that no province has the absolute right to control its own educational affairs. That argument was advanced by the Minister of Justice only a short time ago, and the explanation he gave, although it may be satisfactory to his own mind, will not, I think, satisfy the people of the country or of the various provinces that to-day enjoy absolute freedom with regard to education as is done by Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. As they do not.