

Minister of the Interior. On such unconstitutional lines he has carried his course for a good many years. Take for instance, his Grand Trunk Pacific Bill. He did not go to the people with that before he introduced it here? He carried it through two sessions and then went to the country with it. Sir John A. Macdonald, when he introduced the national policy, first went to the people, and got the approval of the people. The right hon. gentleman was afraid to go before the people of this country in the last election on the Autonomy Bill, and he brings it down in the first session in order to escape responsibility for it. Now, if he is in trouble, as he is in trouble, if he has trouble, if the Minister of the Interior—

Some hon. MEMBERS. No, no.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Do hon. gentlemen opposite mean to say that the Minister of Justice has not thrown all the members from the Northwest into fits? There is trouble. I will tell you why the right hon. gentleman will not appoint a Minister of the Interior; it is because if he gets a Minister of the Interior to consent to these modifications he proposes, he will have another province on his hands, another rebellion to quell; and, being in that position, he cannot resort to the straight constitutional method of solving these questions. He should not have introduced this Bill without having had the consent and advice of the members from the Northwest; and on behalf of the province of Manitoba to-day I ask the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton), I ask the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Greenway), I ask all the delegation from the west, whether they approve of this legislation having been introduced without their representatives in the cabinet being consulted, and whether they propose to submit any longer to this legislation being proceeded with without having a minister in the cabinet representing them and representing the west. It is not constitutional. It may be justified, but it will end in disaster, it cannot end in anything else. Now, if the right hon. gentleman fixes up his fences as far as Manitoba is concerned, he will find them down in Nova Scotia, and as soon as he fixes them up in regard to Nova Scotia and the Northwest, he will find them down in the province of Quebec; and, being in that position, he has to resort to all these tricks. He is afraid of trusting the people to-day, he is afraid of the good old principle he laid down years ago of provincial rights. Now, I want to tell him in regard to this education problem, that he can patch it up as much as he likes, he can hold what caucuses he likes, he can fix up his fences in this direction and in that direction; but there is only one thing that will satisfy the provinces of Canada to-day, and that is complete autonomy for the Northwest provinces, the right of the people of the west to settle their own educational affairs. They

wish to be free to settle this question; they don't want all these bickerings in the cabinet. They want to be treated as freemen, with the right to settle their own educational questions; and it is because they dared to assert their freedom in this House, because they had a minister in the government who was prepared to assert that right, that that minister has been put out, and they are to-day to be treated as slaves. Again I tell the right hon. gentleman that he must have more respect for the constitution. So far he professes to be upholding the constitution. But everything he does is irregular—his relations with his ministers, these negotiations that are going on to-day, all these things that we hear of, and many other things that don't get into the press, but that we know are going on, with no peace in prospect, continued bickerings are in store for us. Again I say he is on the wrong line, and he must retrace his steps. He has spoken to-day of the retreat of the late Minister of the Interior. There was no retreat on the part of the late Minister of the Interior in standing up for the rights of the new provinces. He was maintaining what I call good doctrine in regard to provincial rights. Yet, because he took that position in this House, the First Minister says he is retreating. Well, the right hon. gentleman may say it is a retreat, but I say, No. Once again, in the name of the people of the great Northwest, I ask the government to keep their hands off these new provinces in regard to education. Let the people up there settle these questions themselves. They are well competent to do it; they know what they want without any advice from any other province. I do not care which. All they ask is that they be permitted to settle their own affairs. I do not care what batteries may be placed in this House, on the one side or the other. There is no service in this House but the one service—the public service. I want to tell the right hon. gentleman this, that it may take much longer than he counts on to put this session through. I do not see why the right hon. gentleman should get one dollar of supplies while he has no minister of the Interior to take the part of Manitoba. I do not see why he should get any legislation through this House until he comes forward with a complete ministry, until he comes forward with a man representing that portion of the country—if the government believe in geographical representation—with a man from that portion of the country prepared to assume the responsibilities of this government in connection with their programme in dealing with the autonomy of the west.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. gentleman did not conclude with a motion.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I beg to move that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. SPEAKER. In making a motion the hon. gentleman should rise.