

I have had the honour, Sir, to be elected to represent my constituency by voters belonging to various races and various creeds; and I am proud to state, in this House, that none of these electors, whether Catholic or Protestant, French or English, have laid down terms or suggested a policy for me to follow on religious or racial issues, such as that now being discussed. And I may add this, to the credit of the English-speaking section of my electors, who are quite numerous, that they have not sent me one single petition or protest such as those which have rejoiced the hearts of some hon. members on the other side. As a further proof of what I say, I may invite the hon. members for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), for Victoria, (Mr. Sam. Hughes) and for South York (Mr. Maclean), to come and spend a few days in the English-speaking section of Vaudreuil, in order to judge for themselves what a happy and contented life lead those whose digestion is not troubled by the heartburnings of bigotry. These hon. members would find there inspiring examples and unfailing recipes to restore tranquillity to their unsettled minds. There would they find pure-blooded Englishmen; Scotchmen, who are the direct descendants of those proud Highlanders; Irishmen, from the Emerald Isle, living in close neighbourhood with people of pure French Canadian stock, all in perfect peace and harmony.

However, I fear it may grate on the rather sensitive ears of the hon. member for East Grey, that faithful interpreter of the 'Huntingdon Gleaner,' if I state that, in those same English sections of the county, the French population is usually not very wealthy, but that, there as elsewhere, they have the love of religious ceremonies and have built for themselves unpretentious churches where they congregate to pray to God after their fashion and in accordance with the tenets of their church. Now, much of the material which has been used in the construction of these buildings, has been paid for out of the generous donations of Protestants. A resident in one of these localities, and its mayor, an Englishman—and one that I only wish hon. gentlemen who oppose us would resemble in some little degree—donated the sum of one hundred dollars towards the building of one of these modest chapels.

The Protestant populations in my county have schools fully equipped, wherein children receive a complete education. Besides these Protestant schools there are Catholic schools. In some of the schools, the teaching is given in English, in others it is given in French. The English population speaks English and the French speaks French, whenever it suits or pleases them. In that way, all enjoy equal rights and live in harmony. And on Sundays, all, English as well as French, Protestants as well as Catholics, enjoy rest under the eye of the

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same Master whom they all serve and honour, although in various ways.

The state of things which I have just described is not special to the county I represent, it is to be found in all the counties of Quebec wherein Englishmen and Scotchmen are to be found.

I wonder at times whether the hon. members for East Grey, Victoria and South York are sincere in their intolerant warfare; I will do them the kindness of believing they are. However, I cannot help calling to mind, just now, inflammatory editorials against French Canadians, and more especially Catholics, which appeared, some nine years ago, in the Morrisburg 'Courier,' the leading organ of the 'P.P.A.' That paper was, at the time, under the control of an ally of hon. gentlemen opposite who was then, the leader, or about to become the leader, of the Opposition in the province of Ontario, and who is to-day the head of the government in that province. And to, that wrathful opponent of the French Canadians and of our fellow-believers in the province of Ontario, unexpectedly touched by heavenly grace, and no doubt, also by the expectation of some future reward, mellowed, little by little, into a kindlier feeling towards us. And soon the political sky of his province cleared up, brighter days shone for him; he emerged from the cold shades, or rather from the warm purgatory, of opposition; he won a great battle and became Prime Minister of his province. And then what did he do, but take into his cabinet, two Catholics, and one of them a French Canadian. With one stroke of that pencil which made up the list of his future colleagues, the new Prime Minister made amends for his past record and won the consideration of the whole Catholic and French population of Ontario.

I wonder whether the hon. members for South York, East Grey and Victoria will not some day imitate such conduct and get converted. It is high time they do so, for should they delay until they become ministers of the Crown to atone for their intolerant warfare of to-day, I fear they will die impenitent; and for the information and edification of the future generation, we might inscribe on their tombs: under this barren soil lies the unwholesome seed of hateful principles which have never germinated in this beautiful country. Allow me, Sir, to call the attention of those hon. gentlemen on the other side to whom I have referred several times to what has occurred in the provincial legislature of Quebec, not later than last week, when the Hon. Mr. Weir, a Scotch Protestant, was elected Speaker of the House, it being the first time that an English-speaking Protestant was elected to fill such a position in the province. In the meantime, the French population of that province are witnesses of outbreaks of feeling in Ottawa