

and in the press throughout our country in praise of that fair land. To my mind we, as a nation, have just begun to realize the vast possibilities of that great country, and future generations will condemn us for not grasping the situation earlier and developing sooner that land of great promise. There is a question pending before us to-day affecting the provinces and one that cannot be underestimated. Let us, therefore, be guarded, let us not saddle on the new provinces legislation that will not only hamper the rights of the people living there to-day, but will leave to the generations yet unborn a heritage that will retard their growth and development in the future. In the year 1896, this House had before it legislation affecting the schools of Manitoba. Many were the heated discussions on that Bill, and no more passionate appeals were ever made to the prejudices and religious feelings of a large portion of the people of this country than those made by the hon. members who are leading the government to-day. The cries of these hon. gentlemen were, 'Hands off Manitoba,' 'No coercion,' 'We believe in provincial rights.' 'No coercion under Laurier.' While the leaders of the present government were avowing these principles and telling the people of Canada that these principles were right, I was telling the people of the county of Lambton that I also believed these principles were right; I was defending the cause of provincial rights and educational freedom for Manitoba as conscientiously and as honestly then as I am now saying to the present government: You should stand to your principle of provincial rights, you should stand by your own doctrine of no coercion in matters of education for the Northwest Territories: Be true to the principles you avowed in 1896 and the people will love, honour and respect you. But, if you do not harken to the people to-day, your government will go down to deserved ignominy and defeat. If public men or governments can avow certain principles, agitate those principles to the extent of defeating a government so as to establish those principles, and, when they attain power laugh at the professions they made and cast the principles they advocated to the winds, they are aiming a blow at public morality, they are lowering the position of public men, and we need not wonder at people scoffing at the idea that public men can be honest. I believe that disgrace and defeat should await any public man or any government in Canada that will not fulfil promises made to the people. And, when you come to realize that the present government have not been carrying out their promises ever since they came into power, when you come to realize that they are to-day practically a government of opportunists, it seems an easy matter for them to break faith with the people. They seem to

believe and to act upon the old adage that the people like to be humbugged. But there is also an old saying that you can fool some of the people part of the time, and you can fool all the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time. I feel confident that the people of Canada will soon come to realize that, the present government have been humbugging them for the last nine or ten years, and they will put a stop to it at the earliest opportunity. They professed in 1896 that if they were given the reins of office they would reduce the running expenses of this country. They have nearly doubled them. They told the people that they would reduce the taxes. They have increased them. They talked about free trade as it is in England, commercial union, and annexation. And practically the only plank in their platform that was worth standing upon was provincial rights, and here they are to-day ready to abandon that also. The people of Ontario, last January, declared that they did not believe in double-dealing, that they had had enough of corrupt government in that province, and the old government went down and out. Honesty among public men is regarded as necessary by our people, and they will not condone wrong-doing. This government has had an opportunity to create a unity of feeling between the races in Canada as no government has ever had before. Had the principles avowed by hon. gentlemen leading the government to-day been the same as the principles they avowed in 1896, they would have given to these new provinces absolute control of education and would thereby have cemented the bonds between the races. Look back at the situation created in 1896, when race and religious feeling ran rampant in this land, when neighbours mistrusted each other, when Roman Catholics regarded Protestants as their natural enemies and Canada was not a united nation. Look at this country to-day, and cannot you see that feeling is more intensified than it was in 1896? Have not the members of this parliament presented more petitions to this House, have they not had more letters sent to them urging them to stand by one principle or the other? Does not the government see that a flame is being fanned to-day that a score of years will not quench? And, if this government forces separate schools upon the new provinces, they throw into the political soil of Canada a seed that cannot be uprooted for all time to come. We can never make Canada a great nation, we can never make Canada a united nation, we can never make our people a united people until we blot out the strife and ill-feeling that is abroad in the land to-day. This feeling is the greatest detriment to our national growth; it retards immigration, it hampers our agricultural, commercial and industrial growth. Worst of all it creates distrust in the minds