

servative party. Of course it came to the ears of the minority, the French Canadians, and they commenced to be frightened. There was a question of abolishing their legislative council which was their safeguard. Upper houses, in the opinion of the Fathers of Confederation were established for the safeguarding of the provinces as well as of the Dominion parliament. What were the reasons given in order to obtain the consent of these men to the abolition of the legislative council? Let us read some of them. The Premier of Manitoba at the time of which I am speaking, was Mr. Davis, who said:

It may be said that the council is a safeguard to the minority. He could assure the minority that their rights would never be trampled upon in this province.

Now there was a sacred promise made by the Prime Minister of the province of Manitoba (Mr. Davis).

There would always be sufficient English speaking members of the House who would insist on giving their French fellow subjects their rights to protect them.

Mr. Norquay, who became premier afterwards, said:

In 1870 when the Dominion government invested the people of this province with the responsibility of self-government they gave them a constitution which in their belief would meet the demands of those who had offered opposition to the inauguration of Canadian authority in this province. There was a certain class of people in this province, who in the belief that they would soon be in the minority required the protection of the Upper House. No doubt the time will come when the privilege claimed by those speaking the French language will be waived, but he for his part would never like to see them deprived of the privilege of speaking their language on the floor of the House and in the courts of justice; and also of being able to make themselves acquainted with the laws of the country by reading them in their own language if they cannot read them otherwise.

I am proud to say that man was a Conservative, Mr. Norquay who for many years was premier of the province of Manitoba. Another gentleman spoke not a member but a journalist, Mr. Luxton. What did he say:

There are some questions of sentiment which lay close to the hearts of the French people, and he could assure them that the English speaking members would not deal with these; and if the French representatives were sufficiently patriotic to support the measure before the House, they would recognize their generosity and not forget it.

There was another gentleman, Mr. Cornish. What did he say:

He believed the old settlers and the French would make common cause if their rights were infringed upon, and he would assure them that if the Canadian party—

He meant the English.

—became the great majority they want to keep these promises that were made in Manitoba.

What was the result of all that? Later on in 1888, the premier of Manitoba was Mr. Harrison. His majority was very small. He had to replace one of his ministers. He chose a man by the name of Burke. Burke was a French Canadian with an Irish name, and he presented himself in the county of St. Francois Xavier, of which the great majority is French Catholic. The Liberal party brought against him, Mr. Francis, an English Protestant. It was very hard to elect Mr. Francis under the circumstances. Mr. Burke raised the cry that it had been the policy of the Liberal party for years to deprive the Roman Catholics and the French speaking Canadians of their schools and the use of their own language. What was the result? Mr. Francis wanted to resign. He thought it impossible to make a fight, but the Liberal party sent out Mr. Martin—Joe Martin—and he went there and made promises. What did he say? In a powerful speech he denounced the statements of Burke and his friends as follows:

He told the meeting that it never had been the policy of the Liberals to interfere with the language or institutions of the French Catholic population, and he appealed to them to trust the Liberals and support their candidate.

That was the promise made by Mr. Martin, as a minister, in the name of the government of which he was a member.

Mr. S. J. JACKSON. No, he was not a minister at that time.

Mr. BERGERON. Was he not Solicitor General?

Mr. S. J. JACKSON. No, Mr. Harrison was premier and Mr. Martin was a member of the opposition.

Mr. BERGERON. I thank my hon. friend for the correction. True Mr. Martin was in the opposition, but he became shortly after a minister of the government which was formed. Mr. Martin was in opposition, and speaking in the name of his party he promised the people that if there should be a change of government, all that had been said by a Mr. Burke and his friends about the Liberal party abolishing Catholic schools and the French language, if they came into power, was wrong, and that such had never been the policy of the Liberal party. The people believed Mr. Martin and elected Mr. Francis—a most extraordinary thing under the circumstances. That was the death of the Conservative party; and Mr. Greenway, the present member for Lisgar, was called upon to form an administration. What did Mr. Greenway do? I have said that the province was divided into two parties. There was a kind of dead-lock, so that although the defeat of Mr. Burke had killed the Conservative party, the Liberal party was not any stronger. They