

like all the other members, with the view of working for the progress, prosperity and advantage of our country and of thereby making a nation of our people; and it is not by talking religion for eight weeks or by exciting French against English or Catholics against Protestants or province against province that we can do this. In my opinion, the best way to promote unity and harmony and good feeling and everything that goes to make a strong, prosperous and united nation is to respect each others honest convictions both in religion and politics. Much has been said here of the imaginary bigotry and fanaticism of the province of Quebec. Well, Mr. Speaker, I was born in the province of Quebec, I have lived there all my life, and I have come in daily contact with English Protestants for the last thirty years in all kinds of business. And I can say sincerely that in all my relations with my fellow citizens and theirs with me, difference in religion has never entered as an element and has never interfered within our good understanding of each other. In the province of Quebec we have in that sense no nationality and no religion and we never talk of religion.

Mr. BARR. Oh, oh.

Mr. FORGET. My hon. friend may laugh, but I repeat what I say. We are there all Canadians in spirit as well as in fact. In the city of Montreal, where seventy-five per cent of the population are French speaking and seven-eighths Catholics, we elect an English Protestant mayor every two years. In the legislature of the province of Quebec we have an English Protestant speaker and our provincial treasurer, whose portfolio is the most important in the cabinet from my point of view, is an English-speaking man. I have seen as many as three English Protestant ministers out of seven in the Quebec cabinet. More than that, there is at present in the Quebec legislature an English Protestant, a resident of Nova Scotia, representing a French Canadian constituency in that province. I see on this side of the House and on the other side, English-speaking Protestants of Ontario representing French Canadian counties in the province of Quebec. In the legislative council of Quebec the English Protestants again have more than they are entitled to. It is so in the city council of Montreal, it is so in the house of assembly of Quebec. So far as education is concerned, if you go into our Catholic schools, our Catholic convents, our Catholic universities, you will find a great number of English Protestant children being educated there.

I said I would not detain the House very long. But before sitting down I have to announce that it is my intention to vote against the amendment of the hon. leader of the opposition. I have a great admiration for that hon. gentleman, but I am afraid he has made a mistake this time. Not only

Mr. FORGET.

shall I vote against the amendment, but I shall vote in favour of the Bill. I approve of the creation of these two new provinces. Some hon. members have said they would prefer to see only one province. I think that in creating only one province we would have been creating a Dominion within the Dominion, because that province would be unduly large. I also approve of the settlement of the land question, because those Territories were purchased by the money of the Dominion, they were developed by the money of the whole Dominion. The Canadian Pacific Railway was constructed by the aid of money from the whole Dominion for the purpose of developing those Territories. The present government is doing the same thing with regard to the Grand Trunk Pacific, borrowing money on the credit of all the provinces in order to develop those Territories. Millions have been spent on immigration, money that was taken from the Dominion treasury in order to develop those Territories. They are now without any debt, they are getting a good subsidy to set them going. The federal government, by keeping control of the lands, will be able to indemnify, directly or indirectly, the other provinces for their expenditure in developing the Northwest. These lands will constitute the finest asset of the Dominion of Canada. Within ten years, probably, these lands will be worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Why should we leave them to these provinces which have been developed with the money of the whole country?

So far as the school question is concerned, I would like to have seen the same system established in the Northwest as we have in Ontario and Quebec. I would have liked to see that system in every province in the Dominion of Canada. But as our Catholic minority cannot expect to get that from the generosity of the majority, we must take what we can get. I have no doubt the Prime Minister and some of his colleagues have got all they could out of the majority of the cabinet. I have no doubt they worked very hard to get more. I am willing to accept what they have got, trusting that in the near future one of those provinces will have a majority of Catholics. That time may come in ten years, and then we shall see in which of those two provinces the rights of the minority will be best respected. I trust that the spirit of British fair play which is now being stifled by a portion of the Ontario press and some of the Ontario members will assert itself some day and give justice to the minorities in the Northwest.

Mr. BRODEUR moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Fielding, House adjourned at 10.40 p.m.