

inions,' that the people of Toronto have found him out as the very man who brought a Papal ablegate to this country for that very purpose. This is the issue before this country, and I leave it with the House and the country. The proposal is to establish a connection between church and state in the new provinces, and to allow a denominational interest to tithe and toll the school lands of those two free provinces. Hon. gentlemen may laugh and jeer at it, but that is the issue that is to be decided in the country. It may be laughed at in this House; but every man from Ontario, every man from the west—nay, more, every man from the maritime provinces—will be asked to account for his conduct in regard to this effort which is being made to establish a connection between church and state, and to share the public school funds of this country with one denomination to the exclusion of every other. Another thing which hon. gentlemen will have to settle, whether they be of the government or private members, is the way in which this legislation has been introduced into this House—how only one side has been consulted and every other interest has been ignored. Sometimes it is necessary to say a word in the interest of a majority. There is a majority of fifty-nine per cent in this country that is entitled to fair-play, and that majority says to-day that it has not been given that fair-play which it had a right to expect from the right hon. gentleman when that majority gave their confidence to him, and when he in return gave a pledge, which they took from him on his honour, and which pledge to-day is broken and in the dust. That is the issue, and on that the public will judge hon. gentlemen opposite. The fifty-nine per cent do not want to do anything unfair to the minority; but those who compose that fifty-nine per cent are of that character that if they think an attempt is being made to manacle or interfere with the educational freedom of those great provinces in the west, they will resent it. All that the people of the province of Ontario say to-day is what they said before. They said in 1896: Hands off Manitoba; and they say again to the province of Quebec: Hands off the new provinces in the west; leave them alone; let them manage their own affairs, especially their school affairs, as you have full liberty to manage yours. That is all they say; and if the fifty-nine per cent of this country are to be charged with fanning a flame and stirring up creed and race wars in this country, I say it is not just to make that charge, because they have not done it; but they have said to the government, in a fair and respectful way: Leave these new provinces to settle their own educational affairs. On the other hand, the charge comes home to hon. gentlemen opposite, and they must give an account of themselves to the people of Ontario. Where is the Postmaster General to-day, who was so anxious

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN.

yesterday to repudiate the letter of the forty immortals? He did not want to be identified with it; and yet is he not responsible, being a member of the government, for every political act of his colleagues? He is trying to escape the responsibility, but he will be held responsible for it, and so will every other member from the province of Ontario.

Now, my advice to the right hon. gentleman is—not that I want to see him force the ablegate out of the country; but he had better have an explanation from the ablegate, and if that explanation is not satisfactory, he must repudiate him. Another thing he must do, and I tell him now; he must withdraw this school clause from that Bill. That Bill will never pass this House or this parliament in its present shape. Leave that school clause out, and leave the courts to interpret what the constitutional rights of the minority in the province are, and we in Ontario and the west will be satisfied. That is all we want. But do not try to fetter when you have no right to fetter; do not claim constitutional interference when you have no right to interfere. So far as I am able to prevent it, and other members of this House, that clause will never go on the statue-book of this country.

Mr. E. M. MACDONALD (Pictou). Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) has been busily engaged for the past three-quarters of an hour in his favourite occupation of fanning the flame of religious discord in this country; but the bellows do not seem to be working as well as they did yesterday, and the flame is not being fanned with the same alacrity as was displayed yesterday afternoon. My hon. friend, coming from the premier province, the largest province of this Dominion, is accustomed to speak, and I am sorry to say a great many other gentlemen who come from that province, are in the habit of speaking of Ontario as if it were the whole Dominion. The time was in the history of this country when our friends who sit on the opposite side of the House claimed to be the national party, the party which stood for a united Canada all round. That is not the song they sing now. We hear Ontario spoken of as if there were no other portion of this whole Dominion, and those of us who come from the maritime provinces and the province of Quebec, and who, in the exercise of our rights as members of parliament venture to express our views on matters of ordinary importance, are pilloried by the Tory newspapers as being more liable to be corrupted than those who possess the high ideals of the gentlemen from the province of Ontario. Sir, I want to resent any such imputation. We, from Nova Scotia, may not belong to such a big province in area; but we come from a province to which the Tory party were forced to go not long ago in despera-