

think, will accuse my hon. friend of modesty after having listened as carefully as I did to the speech he made. But I wish to say, lest some hon. member should be led astray, that my esteemed friend is an honest business man of more than ordinary ability, who has been and is now successful in commercial matters, but politically I think he is warped. In fact, as one gentleman told me, our friend is so politically bent that rain coming down straight will not touch him. His story about the Hon. Mr. Tarte going to Winnipeg in 1896 to settle the school question with the Greenway government, getting Joe Martin a \$10,000 job, appointing the Hon. Mr. Prendergast to the Supreme Court Bench, getting the ex-Minister of the Interior (Mr. Sifton) to fix all these fellows up and giving him as compensation the management of the Department of the Interior free from all restraint, and having it so arranged that he could make two million dollars in eight years—all this was possibly one of my hon. friend's greatest efforts and shows what a fruitful imagination he enjoys. But he made one great omission in that address of his. He forgot to state—and I find it difficult to account for the omission—that the educational clauses of this Bill were prepared in Rome, and that the Pope's representative was sent with them to this country with instructions to have the right hon. the leader of the government introduce them into this House. If those details had been added to his speech, it would have been complete and have been a most wonderful piece of fiction.

The hon. member for North Cape Breton and Victoria, N.S. (Mr. D. D. McKenzie) and the hon. member for Cornwall and Stormont (Mr. Pringle) delivered carefully prepared speeches from a legal standpoint. I was very much impressed with their addresses and also with that of my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk). From a legal standpoint, I think they were possibly the best addresses I have heard; and after studying all these, I feel prouder than ever of my right hon. friend, the leader of this House. I believe that he was standing on the rock of the constitution in 1896 when he would not allow Manitoba to be coerced, and I think he is standing on the same firm ground in continuing to the new provinces the school system which is so satisfactory to the people interested.

In conclusion I feel it my duty to state here clearly why I am going to vote for this Bill. I do so because I believe that the boundaries of the new provinces are wisely marked out and that the government showed great judgment in leaving the northern extension of Saskatchewan unsettled and allowing Manitoba and the other provinces interested to have a final say in the adjustment of this great question. I do so because I am convinced that the action of the government on the land question is a wise one and that their action on the school question is in no

way contrary to the spirit and intention of the British North America Act of 1867. I approve of the government's policy because the financial clauses are in my opinion just, generous and satisfactory to these young giants of the west. I approve of this Bill because it is in the best interests of Canada as a whole that the public lands of the new provinces should remain the property of Canada. I endorse this measure because the rights of the minority are protected by it and because I believe that the school clauses, over which there has been so much bitter debate, will in the end be found beneficial to Canadian unity, to which, as my hon. friend from Shefford (Mr. Parmelee) pointed out the other day, the First Minister has consecrated his life. This Bill, in my opinion, is the crowning glory of the right hon. gentleman's political career. At length Canada is a united country from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and we have now from end to end of this great Dominion a confederation of practically self-governing provinces. The cope stone has been placed on our union, and the last provinces admitted are coming in under the most favourable circumstances, because we know, from the reports daily coming to us from the west, that the people of these new provinces will appreciate the generous treatment they are receiving at the hands of this government, and the name of Sir Wilfrid Laurier will shine as one of the very brightest in Canadian history. It will go down to posterity as the name of a man revered, trusted and loved for his courage, wisdom and integrity and who stands to-day, as he has always stood, for everything that is in the best interests of the Canadian people.

Mr. RUDOLPHE FORGET (Charlevoix). I do not intend, Mr. Speaker, to detain the attention of the House more than a few minutes, because I think the discussion on this Bill has been already too long for the good it has done in the country. In fact it has done much harm. The bad feeling which was created some ten years ago, when somewhat similar legislation was introduced into this House, had all been forgotten, but I am sorry to say it has all been revived by some members of the government who initiated the agitation which has since been kept up by hon. members on this side. This agitation has done no good to our country but considerable harm. By some members it has been kept up, I believe, through fanaticism. Others have been inspired, I think, by ignorance. Some others have been moved both by ignorance and fanaticism, but I think the majority of them were actuated by the idea of ousting the government from office and getting in themselves. Such political tactics I cannot approve. I was not elected to this parliament to support any such policy; and rather than do so I would prefer to remain in opposition all my life. I was sent here,