

gramme announcing what the Liberals did for this country :

They settled the Manitoba school question which was a subject of so much racial and religious controversy and which seriously threatened the peace and welfare of the Dominion.

Mr. SPROULE. Why didn't they send that to the Pope, to let him know it was settled ?

Mr. BRODER. But now we are told that the Manitoba school question is not settled, and so it turns out that the people of Canada were deceived as to that. While that assertion was being placarded all over the country, an emissary was sent to Rome, behind the backs of the people, to say that the settlement was only an instalment. Have not the people of Canada a right to be apprehensive as to their rights and their concern in the welfare of this country, when the party in power backed up by a strong majority saw fit to deal in that way with matters that are sacred to every man ? I am not going to say much about separate schools on their own merits—I will leave that question in the hands of its own friends, and that's bad enough. We have heard a great deal from our friend the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) about the condition of education in the province of Quebec.

Some people will ask : What business is it of yours whether our schools are good or bad ? I reply that certainly it is our duty. If we appropriate public money for school purposes, we are certainly interested in seeing that the money is properly expended. If it were any particular church which was spending its own money on the schools, then of course it would be the business of nobody except those belonging to that church what these schools were like. Let me read here what the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Fitzpatrick) said in the Quebec provincial legislature about these very same schools in that province. You may talk about the intolerance of Ontario, but, I defy you to look through the speech of any public man in that province and find in it a stronger indictment against the school system in Quebec than is made by the Minister of Justice. I am taking the report of the Montreal 'Herald,' and of course, as the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Fisher) has a good deal to do with that paper it could not by any possibility indulge in a lie. Here is what Mr. Fitzpatrick said :

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. In what year ?

Mr. BRODER. The speech was made on the 10th February, 1893, and this appeared in the 'Herald' the following day. The occasion was the voting of supplies for the schools. I have taken the trouble to compare the Montreal 'Herald's' report with that of the Quebec 'Chronicle,' and find they are both alike. The 'Herald' of course is friendly to the Quebec government, but I do not know on what side is the Quebec

'Chronicle.' But here is the report in the 'Herald' of Mr. Fitzpatrick's remarks :

Mr. Fitzpatrick, supporting Mr. Marchand, said that our common school system was the very worst that could be found in any country ; its evil effects were everywhere apparent. The House had been informed that in many parishes the people were so illiterate that it was impossible to find school commissioners able to read or write. He, himself, knew that thirty per cent of the jurymen in our law courts could not sign their name, yet large sums of money were voted last year for the common schools. To what use was that money put, and were the popular classes better educated to-day than twenty years ago ? He thought not. A large amount was also yearly expended on normal schools which appeared almost totally useless under the existing state of things. He was informed, he wished to be corrected if he was wrong, that over fifty per cent of the graduates of the normal schools were at present seeking a living in the United States. This was not to be wondered at when we reflected upon the ridiculously small salary paid to teachers in this country. Classical education was on a fairly good footing in this province, but in respect of all that concerned financial and commercial pursuits the majority were on an unequal footing, not that the ability was wanting, but because of the vicious educational system. Our banking and commercial occupations of the higher order were consequently in the hands of a certain class of the population. Education was the basis of success. Popular education in this province must be thorough and practical, otherwise we would never be anything but hewers of wood and drawers of water to the educated minority.

That is what the hon. Mr. Fitzpatrick said about the schools in the province of Quebec in 1893.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. Is that fanaticism ?

Mr. BRODER. That would be called intolerance if any man in Ontario had said it. But said by a Quebec man, that charge cannot lie. But Mr. Fitzpatrick's comments are rather hard on the statements made by the hon. the Minister of Agriculture the other day. It ought to be the aim of every man in this country to have our schools efficient. These schools ought to be the schools of the people. If the right hon. the First Minister was sincere in what he said about public schools, he certainly cannot be sincere in giving to the minority in the Territories the small concessions he is giving them in the Bill before the House, if we are to judge by the criticism of his own friends. We have had man after man of them get up and say that the school clause does not mean anything that it merely establishes public schools with half an hour religious instruction added. If that be the case, then the right hon. gentleman is not dealing honestly with the minority and is not consistent with his own professions. If he believes that public schools are not in the interests of the country, then he should see that the people in the Territories be really given separate schools, and that the minority there