

ing in my riding is obtained for the purpose of a meeting. I will give him all the time he wishes, and I will see that the meeting is well advertised. I shall go there although I am only one of the members of this House, only a country member and I shall put my case before my people myself and he may put his case as he likes: he may take under his arm all these cartoons that have been in his paper and hang them around the walls; he may take all the inflammatory articles that have appeared in his paper and distribute them among the people. But I am not afraid to go up there and lay the whole case before my people and I know what the verdict will be. I know that nine-tenths of the people will back me up in the position which I have taken to-day and in the vote which I intend to give.

I sympathize with the determination to have separate schools in some form, and since that determination exists we must consider well the question whether it is fair to tax minorities for public schools which they do not use. To create such a grievance would divide rather than unite the elements of our population. We have been told very often in this House that the best system would be for the children to be brought up together, but under our present circumstances is it not true also that we would thus divide rather than unite the elements of population? Of course it may be said, I hope it will not prove true, that the provinces could continue the privileges for which this Bill provides. I quite understand that the provinces might do that, but we can easily understand why minorities should be eager that the constitutional guarantee which only federal legislation can give, should be established.

In conclusion, I wish to say a word in favour of the right hon. gentleman who leads the government (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) in addition to what I have already said. Can we find evidence of one instance—I know we hear the charges—but can we find evidence to show that in any case the right hon. gentleman has ever given himself away to the church to which he belongs? I have already spoken of Sir Oliver Mowat even asking a Presbyterian minister to join his cabinet, and I would say that I believe there are very few men who have ever sat in parliament who have kept themselves freer from such a course as the premier is charged with than that right hon. gentleman has done. Let me remind the House of the patriotism of the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) what a true patriot he has been to this Canada of ours, what a broad-minded far-seeing statesman, and yet we find hon. members of this House abusing him in such a manner as did the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Lalor) last night. I am glad that the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) has been tolerant in his remarks. It is a credit to him, but I am sorry he has not

been able to vote for the question, and to induce his followers to be a little more tolerant in their remarks. Such inciting and inflammatory articles as we have seen in their press, such inciting and inflammatory speeches as we have heard from opposition members in this House cannot be of benefit to this Dominion. I deplore the use of such language in this country, I regret that we have men in Canada who will come to parliament and raise their voices in such an intolerant way against the Roman Catholics of this country and in opposition to their having the schools which they wish to have. I would urge them to for ever drop such a course, to be tolerant and instead of raising these flames of religious prejudice and cries of religious inequality, to help on the good work which our great premier has carried on with such great success, the unification of the people of this Dominion.

Mr. P. ELSON (East Middlesex). Mr. Speaker, in rising to make a few remarks on this very important question, the Autonomy Bill, I wish to say to the House that I shall be very brief and shall not weary the members by a long speech. Neither do I intend to allude to any extent to the remarks which have been made by the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat. I know that at this late stage in the debate it is difficult to bring forward anything new that would be of interest to the House, and therefore I shall be very brief, but at the same time I shall advance a few ideas of my own. Being as I am, a native born Canadian, there is no portion of the face of the earth in which I feel so much interest as in that portion which is bounded by the outward boundaries of the Dominion of Canada. There are no people who live and move and have their being upon the face of the globe, in whom I feel so much interest as in those persons who are Canadians and who at least live on Canadian soil. We have in our country a very great variety of most valuable natural resources, which have been given us by the bountiful hand of a bountiful Giver; and upon these resources and with these resources, it is altogether likely a great nation will be built up in the Dominion of Canada. Now, Sir, it is the duty of the government of the day, in connection with the people of the country, to develop these resources as quickly and as reasonably as we can. Most certainly, Sir, do I feel it to be the duty of the government to so govern the people that contentment will rest on their minds. To so govern the people that—Mr. Speaker, I cannot find words to convey the meaning I desire to convey to the House unless I am permitted to use a few of those words which you so reverently read on every occasion when you open the sitting of this House, and when you pray. That the deliberations of the three branches of the

Mr. T. MARTIN.