

tion than from the policy of coercion. That is the position that I took in my county in the presence of the parish priests, and it was supported by the people as well as the clergy of my county.

Mr. BERGERON. I suppose my hon. friend is very sincere in what he says. Will he allow me to say that I think he is entirely mistaken?

Mr. BOURASSA. I am simply saying that is my opinion.

Mr. BERGERON. I am saying to my hon. friend that he is sincere, but that he is entirely mistaken. He will admit that the minority of Manitoba have not the rights to which they are entitled?

Mr. BOURASSA. Certainly; there is no doubt about that.

Mr. BERGERON. The hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) was very unhappy in his remarks. He made a fine speech. I heard a number of my hon. friends say that he made a beautiful speech, but when he spoke of the bishops of Quebec as being Tory machines he made an awful mistake. Let me say again, because we cannot say it too often, that although there may have been abuses in some places, for instance, in the county of Charlevoix, which has been referred to, there are the most damnable things in this book which have been sent to Rome and which are not true. But, on the whole, our bishops in Quebec are men of a great deal of prudence. They are learned men. They are chosen with a great deal of care. They are wise, and they are men of delicate sensibilities. There is a bishop in the county I have the honour to represent, and he has never dropped me a letter or expressed a desire to see me as to the vote I may give or as to the position which I intend to take upon this question. Some people may think that I am getting hot upon this question of the Manitoba schools. I have been the victim of it. In 1900 the gentleman who presented himself against me in the county of Beauharnois was an English Protestant. You know this gentleman; you have seen him here. He was a thorough Conservative until 1896; but he went against the Conservative party in 1896, because the Conservative party wanted to render justice to the Catholic minority of Manitoba. There are many English votes in that county, and they were cast for that gentleman when he was a candidate in 1900. I believe that these people voted for him sincerely and honestly, and naturally they elected him, because our people do not separate upon national lines. There are many priests in my county, and I say here, upon my honour as a member of parliament, that never has a bishop or priest in the county of Beauharnois gone to a man and told him that he should vote for me because I was a French Canadian and a Roman Catholic. The result was that

Mr. BOURASSA.

many gave their votes for Mr. Loy, an English Protestant. Is this not a conspicuous indication of tolerance and broad-mindedness? When the hon. member for Pictou spoke of the bishops of Quebec as if they were Tory machines, he made a great mistake.

Mr. BOURASSA. Is it not a fact that the bishop in whose diocese the county which my hon. friend represents is situated did not sign the mandement which was issued by the bishops in 1896?

Mr. BERGERON. I do not know anything about that.

Mr. BOURASSA. Well, I know.

Mr. BERGERON. I will take the hon. gentleman's word. I do not know if he signed it or not; and if he did not, I do not know why he did not sign it. I will take the testimony of my hon. friend. The bishop might have said: Why do you not vote for your own compatriot? But it was never done. My opponent addressed large meetings of my compatriots, although he could not speak their own language very well.

An hon. MEMBER. He spoke well.

Mr. BERGERON. He may have spoken well on the hustings, but he was not a Demosthenes or a Cicero. I never took advantage of this fact. Our people would listen to him most politely, and never did I ask one man directly or indirectly that he should give me his support on account of my nationality. I was sorry to hear my hon. friend from Pictou—I hope it was a slip of the tongue—call the bishops of Quebec Tory machines.

Mr. BUREAU. Why did not you correct your friend from South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) when he called the Papal ablegate a policeman.

Mr. BERGERON. If my hon. friend (Mr. Bureau) will allow me I will take care of my own conscience. My hon. friend from Three Rivers is not afraid of anything or any body, and he can deal directly with the member for South York. I do not approve of everything the member for South York says or does, but he is not responsible to me.

Mr. DUNCAN ROSS. Before the hon. gentleman goes further—the hon. member for Pictou is not here, and if I remember aright he did not call the bishops of Quebec, Tory machines, but, he quoted from the law reports a statement in which those words were used.

Mr. BERGERON. That may be and 'Hansard' may show it, but I heard the statement that the bishops of Quebec were Tory machines, and I took a note of it. The Minister of Customs spoke about prosperity and the great things that have been done since 1896. That is all very good but all the same it is very painful and regret-