

was due to its alliance with the Catholic clergy in that province. Sir, the hon. gentleman ought to know better; he ought to know that during the elections of 1896 in the province of Quebec, every Liberal candidate was asked by his Conservative opponent to choose between the Catholic church and the leader of the Liberal party, and in spite of the hurricane of protests which came from some presbyteries and some pulpits the candidates of the Liberal party in Quebec stood to their guns and won the battle.

My hon. friend (Mr. Blain) quoted not only the opinions of some clergymen in Ontario and other provinces, but he also referred to the defection of the Toronto 'Globe'. I have been a reader of the 'Globe' for many years; every Liberal in this country is proud of the great Liberal organ in the province of Ontario, and I, for one deeply regret the defection of the 'Globe' on this question. I regret that it forgets what the policy of George Brown did for the Liberal party. The Toronto 'Globe' should remember that the policy of George Brown on certain questions, kept the Liberal party out of office for a quarter of a century. But I must say this to the credit of the Toronto 'Globe': Though it fought the government and is still fighting the government on the educational clauses of this Bill, it has made no wild appeals such as those made by my hon. friend from South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) in his paper. The Toronto 'Globe' has discussed fairly the question from its own point of view. It has appealed to its own readers who belong to the school of George Brown, and it has loyally severed its connection with the government on this question. But what has been the policy pursued by my hon. friend, the editor of the Toronto 'World'?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. A consistent one.

Mr. LEMIEUX. What has been the policy of Mr. Willison, of the Toronto 'News'? What has been the policy of the 'Mail and Empire'? Have they presented calmly to their readers the question now before the House, like men desirous to create an opinion, or have they not discussed it like men anxious to stir up passions and bad feelings? Sir, I have known my hon. friend since 1896. I have been a journalist myself, and I have read his paper for many years; I have followed his career in this House very closely; and I say to him that he would not dare to utter before me, eye to eye, what he has published in his paper since the beginning of this debate.

The hon. member for Peel (Mr. Blain) quoted from the Huntingdon 'Gleaner', which he said was a leading Liberal organ in the province of Quebec. I admit that the editor of the Huntingdon 'Gleaner', Mr. Robert Sellar, is an old journalist.

He resides in the county of Huntingdon, a county where the French Canadians and Catholics form nearly a majority of the electors, and elect Protestant members. During the last election they elected an Irish Protestant. Mr. Robert Sellar is an intelligent man, an honest and pious man; but, Sir, he is a doctrinaire. My hon. friend who is ready to accept the statement of Mr. Robert Sellar, whom he does not know; who is ready to accept the statement of the Huntingdon 'Gleaner' which he does not read once a year, because the paper has but a limited circulation in the county of Huntingdon, should, instead of accepting blindly such statements, look around him and ask his friend the member for the county of Huntingdon (Mr. Walsh), and his friend the member for the county of Sherbrooke (Mr. Worthington), and my hon. friend who represents St. Antoine division of Montreal (Mr. Ames), and my hon. friend who represents Beauharnois (Mr. Bergeron), and my hon. friend from Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk), to read the article referred to and he will learn then whether it is true or not that the French Canadian majority in the province of Quebec is driving away the English-speaking minority.

Mr. SPROULE. Might I say this to the hon. member, that I remember distinctly that some years ago an application was made to the government of the day—and two maps were brought here showing how the country had been peopled with English-speaking people years ago and the condition it was in then—to lend or grant them money enough to take them to the Northwest Territories, because they were becoming so few that it was utterly impossible for them to keep up their schools and churches and to have English-speaking communities, as they had before.

Mr. LEMIEUX. My hon. friend has not made even a point. Does he for one moment believe that the French Canadians in the province of Quebec are driving away the English-speaking Protestant minority? Does he believe that?

Mr. SPROULE. If the hon. member will allow me to explain, I say I believe it—not that they are driving them away offensively, by any means; but here is the system that was represented to us: that whenever a farm was offered for sale, or a farmer was at all willing to sell, a French Canadian was prepared to buy.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. SPROULE. Will hon gentlemen extend to me that courtesy which I always extend to them? Not that the French Canadians were desirous of getting the farms at less than their value; but it was said that they were always ready to buy, and that they had a fund at their disposal to