

majority. There is only one right that I do not recognize in the majority and that is the right to bring compulsion to bear upon me in a matter of conscience. If there are three or four men against me I say they have no right to endeavour to force me to do something which I feel that I cannot conscientiously do. Therefore, I say in conclusion that in view of all the facts we should give to the minority in the Northwest Territories their rights generously, not the shadow of justice, not the mere form of liberty. We are told that there are only ten or twelve separate schools in the Northwest Territories. Well, Sir, I claim that if there was only one separate school in the Northwest Territories we should just the same render justice to the minority in respect to that one school. Is it that the principle of liberty and of right is to be decided on the ground of the strength of those claiming it to obtain and maintain it? I say that we should give right to those to whom it is due and not only to those who have the strength to maintain their rights. If there were only one separate school in the Northwest Territories we would be obliged to do the minority justice the same as if there were a hundred separate schools. But, there is more than one and there would be even more than there are to-day if by the ordinances of the Northwest Territories the Catholics were not forced to send their children to the public schools. If the ordinances which have been adopted in the Northwest Territories prevent Catholics from constituting separate schools, I think it is unfair and unjust to use that as an argument against them and to say that there are not enough separate schools and that therefore we should not render them the justice to which they are entitled. Give generously to the minority in the Northwest the right which are due them. Give them these rights first, because by so doing we are carrying out the principles of liberty. Give them these rights because we owe some gratitude to the province of Quebec. And here, I will call the attention of the House to a statement which I am sure my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) will not deny. On the 12th July, 1902, which is a great day, Mr. Robinson who was then the member for West Elgin, speaking to the Orangemen in St. Thomas, Ontario, said:

We know that the French of Lower Canada have kept this vast Dominion to the British empire; for if these Frenchmen had not been faithful to this country you Orangemen listening to me would not have room enough to stand here together.

If this opinion could be expressed to the Orangemen standing together, I say this country should do justice to the minority of the Northwest Territories and should in this way signify its great gratitude to the hierarchy which is not the awful spec-

tre it has been painted in the Toronto 'World,' but which is the hierarchy which has kept its people faithful to the British Crown on many an occasion as my hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) has said. I wish to take the part of my hon. friend from Labelle who has been attacked in the Ontario papers lately and to say that he belongs to a family which has always been loyal to the British Crown. When the English Protestant minority of Quebec in 1776 did not know which way to turn, when as we say in French, they did not know whether to cry 'Vive la Ligue' or 'Vive Le Roi,' the great grandfather of my hon. friend was on the side of the British Crown and against the American rebels and with another French Canadian, Lamothe, he carried despatches from Montreal through the American lines to the English general in Quebec. Another of my fellow-countrymen, Bouchette, brought the English governor into the besieged city of Quebec. Ever since those days in 1760 when Canada was ceded to the British Crown we have kept our compact faithfully, and I maintain that we have a right to claim that justice should be done to us as we have deserved. In finishing my speech, which I cannot help but feel has been too lengthy, I desire to make a comparison. Not far from here is the great river St. Lawrence which separates us from the Anglo-Saxon Republic to the south. Sweeping past the foot of the hill upon which this building stands is the Ottawa river which separates the French province of Quebec from the English province of Ontario. These two rivers converge near the city of Montreal and for a long time their waters run together without mixing. On the one side we have the dark coloured waters of the Ottawa river and on the other the silvery, bright waters of the St. Lawrence. They float together to a common destiny. Is not that the image of this Dominion of ours? We have two nations floating together, not mixing the one with the other; on the one side the French race, on the other side the English nation, on the one side the Protestant creed, on the other side the Catholic creed. Well, Sir, could we not model this country after these beautiful rivers of ours? Could we not together float away to a common destiny without mixing, without amalgamating the one with the other, and if we do I predict for this country, which is my country and to which I am as loyal as any man, a glorious destiny and in the name of nations a glorious immortality.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES (Victoria and Haliburton). Mr. Speaker, I must compliment the young member for Montmagny (Mr. Laver-gue) on the very able address which he has given to the House. I must bear testimony to the fact, Sir, that not only do our French Canadian people speak their own language