

surely they will take the word of a newspaper like the Montreal 'Witness' which as an independent paper has stood up for Protestantism ever since it was first published. Surely we can give these gentlemen the credit of being fairly good men; and surely we can claim that we are not straining our conscience when we have the pleasure of voting for the Bill now before the House. This paper goes on to say:

Schools are necessarily carried on and managed by the local majority. What is guaranteed is, first, that religious teaching shall not invade the hours of general study; and, second, that if any religious minority feels dissatisfied with majority management, it shall be free to have a school under its own management, but that such school shall be required to come up to the same standard of teaching and be under the same limitations. This is of course a guarantee for Protestant minorities as well as for Roman Catholic ones.

I believe that is an article well worth studying and considering.

Mr. GUNN. Will the hon. member give us the date of that paper?

Mr. T. MARTIN. I will give you the paper itself; but I would rather you would not read it while I am speaking. There is another point I wish to refer to. The hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Lalor) made a rather mean insinuation about the interference of the Papal ablegate. I know that that has been part of the stock-in-trade of the opposition—to try to fix upon the premier that by some means he had mentioned the matter to the Papal ablegate, or that the Papal ablegate had mentioned the matter to him.

Mr. LALOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The hon. gentleman has again misstated. I never insinuated that the premier had an interview with the Papal ablegate. I said that the member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton) had made insinuations from which we inferred—

Mr. T. MARTIN. I did not say that. The hon. gentleman should not put words in my mouth. I said that he had referred to the Papal ablegate, and so he did; and not only the hon. member for Haldimand, but other members of the opposition have attempted to drag his name into this discussion. While I believe there is no warrant for that, still, as a citizen of the province of Ontario, I do not suppose it would be out of place for me to call the attention of the House to some dealings of governments with Protestant ministers. I propose to mention to the House certain facts in our provincial history, and in doing so I am not breaking any confidence. I am able to state that the late Sir Oliver Mowat more than once consulted eminent divines in my own church. I do not say that he did not consult divines of other churches, but I am going to speak particularly of my own church, and then perhaps people cannot find

Mr. T. MARTIN.

so much fault with me. It is well known that the late Principal Caven, head of Knox Theological College in Toronto, stood very near to Sir Oliver Mowat, and was frequently consulted by him, and that on matters pertaining to the state. It is also a matter of history, as stated in the life of the late Principal Grant, the head of another Presbyterian college, written by his own son, that he was invited by Sir Oliver Mowat to take a seat in his cabinet as Minister of Education. That was somewhere in the early eighties. There is nothing private about that; but the conclusion I wish to draw from it is this. If the present premier, or any other Liberal premier, dared in the same way to consult with any clergyman of the Catholic Church, what an enormous uproar would be raised in this House, and also, I am sorry to say, in some parts of the province of Ontario. We know that a great deal of the present excitement and intolerance is hatched in the city of Toronto, and it is sent broadcast by some of our daily papers, by means, not only of large headlines, but also by scandalous and shameful cartoons, which the best press of our country should be ashamed of and will be ashamed of five or ten years hence. I have it from pretty good authority—if I am wrong I will stand corrected—that another Presbyterian divine, Dr. Pringle, of the Yukon, when he was in Ottawa, was consulted, or at least was conversed with, by the right hon. leader of the government about the affairs of the Yukon; and, as the hon. leader of the opposition yesterday left it open to me to propose some one who would make a first-class Governor of the Yukon, I believe Dr. Pringle would be a good man to fill that position.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will not take up much more of the time of the House. The educational clauses in the Bill are of a very interesting and important character, and no doubt that is why there has been so little discussion of the other clauses. The constitutional question I do not propose to discuss. Like the speaker who preceded me, the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Lalor), I do not belong to the legal profession, and therefore shall leave constitutional points to be discussed by men who are versed in legal science. I believe, however, that laymen are quite incapable of judging from the speeches we have had in this House who has had the best of the argument; and I am sure that there is no man in this House, who wishes to express an opinion consistent with his own conscience and who is not tied down by the leader of his party, who will say that the weight of the argument on the constitutional question has not been on the government side. Let me also say that I stand up for provincial rights; and if we want more evidence that we are doing so than the hon. member for Centre York (Mr. Campbell) gave us last night, then we are pretty hard to please. I believe he proved