

I am sure that every commoner in this House and every loyal Canadian outside of this House has the desire not only that there shall be peace and good feeling throughout the Territories but that there shall be peace and good feeling throughout this whole Dominion of Canada. I do not think that the 'Mail and Empire' will agree with me but it does not seem to me to be unreasonable to think that the best way to continue and to perpetuate throughout the Territories that peace and good feeling which that paper assures us do prevail to-day will be to continue the conditions under which that peace and good feeling have prevailed and do prevail. That there is to-day peace and good feeling throughout the Territories we know upon other evidence than that of the 'Mail and Empire.' There is no evidence to the contrary; all the evidence points to the fact that to-day there is peace and good feeling throughout the Territories.

The same special correspondent of the 'Daily Globe,' to whom I have already referred, in a letter to the 'Globe' written from Medicine Hat, and which appeared in the 'Globe' of March 16 last, says:

No agitation could be raised in the west if the present status is maintained.

And again he says:

It can truthfully be said, indeed, that the agitation in Ontario is more resented as an interference with western freedom than the legislation at Ottawa if it only continues what they already have and they are generally well satisfied with.

Sir, as my hon. friend from Cornwall and Stormont (Mr. Pringle) has told us,—and by the way I was very much interested in listening to that speech; I beg to say that the hon. member for Stormont and Cornwall has had the advantage of living for four or five years in South Grey and no man who breathed the splendid atmosphere and lived in the pure surroundings of South Grey, could be narrow or bigoted in this House or anywhere else—my hon. friend to whom I have referred pointed out that when in 1875 the Dominion parliament of Canada gave, by the Act which was then passed, to the Protestant and Catholic minorities in the west a right to separate schools, the majority of the population of that country was Roman Catholic, not Protestant; the majority of the people in those Territories were Roman Catholics, and if Sir, we had found to-day the conditions to be the reverse of what they are, if we had found that our Roman Catholic friends in the west had retained their numerical superiority and that there were to-day more Roman Catholics than Protestants in the west, how differently some of us would look upon the whole question that is now under discussion. I think we would use different arguments, apply a different logic and even place a different interpretation on

Mr. MILLER.

statutes. The hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) in a speech which he delivered in this House some time ago, in connection with this question said that we are legislating to-day for Saskatchewan and Alberta alone, and not for any of the other provinces. That, Sir, is perfectly true, but yet, we are engaged in legislation that has appealed to the sentiments and feelings of the whole Canadian population. In some places an intense feeling has been aroused. We have a great responsibility and we cannot, Sir, as trustees of a great nation afford from any sinister or evil motive, for the sake of any party gain or from any carelessness or any thoughtlessness or for any other wrong cause, to place three-fifths of the Canadian population on the one side of a line and the other two-fifths on the other side as opposing forces. We must, if we are to have success in Canada, have unity and not strife. I quote from a speech which the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) delivered in this House a few days ago in which he spoke of what ought to be the duty of a Roman Catholic majority in the province of Quebec towards a Protestant minority. He said:

You say you are tolerant to the Protestant minority in Quebec. I am glad to hear it. I am not going to stand here and deny it. But, when you say that you are tolerant to the minority, I ask you, ought not you to be? They are your fellow-citizens. They are not our wards; they contribute to your finances; they build up your country; they live side by side with your families; the weal or woe of the province of Quebec must be shared equally by them and you. Ought not you to be tolerant toward them?

And, Sir, I say that if that language applies to the treatment by a Roman Catholic majority of a Protestant minority, it ought to apply equally well and with just as great force to the treatment by a Protestant majority of a Roman Catholic minority. I believe that the only arrangement and the only settlement in connection with this matter which can be finally and permanently satisfactory will be an arrangement that will give fair and impartial justice alike to Roman Catholics and Protestants, to majorities and to minorities. I think, Sir, that justice can only be done by giving to the minorities in the west that which they have had so long both by law and by practice; nothing less and nothing more. Less would be unjust to the minorities, more would be unjust to the majorities; for I do not think that whatever the new provincial governments may do of their own accord, there is anything in law, gospel or reason, to warrant or to authorize this government to give any increased or added rights or privileges. This is the position I have taken on the matter from the beginning. When the original Bill was introduced, I said to my own constituents by word and by letter, Protestants and Catholics; that if a Bill were introduced