

still working to-day for the development and progress of this country and towards its national unity. There is no one in Canada who has used his influence to such an extent, or is still using it to-day, as the 'hierarchy and church authorities of Quebec,' for the purpose of checking or reducing the exodus of my fellow-citizens towards the United States. The Catholic hierarchy advise their folks, in case they should wish to quit their native parish or the province of Quebec, to settle in any of the provinces of the Dominion, whether Ontario or the Northwest, but never in the United States or in foreign countries. Is not that playing the part of patriots? Is not that a task of a nature to consolidate national unity? I think I have shown that:

(1) In 1875, the school legislation of the Northwest was unanimously approved of in this House; there was not one dissentient voice; and it was endorsed outside of the House, by the Toronto 'Mail,' by the Montreal 'Gazette,' by the French Conservatives and Liberals, by the silence of the 'Globe' and the 'Citizen.' It was considered settled for ever in the interest of religious peace and of the future settlement of the Northwest.

2. Our jurisdiction and our powers, as regards the constitution which we are granting to-day to the two new provinces, carved out of the Territories which are still under our tutelage, are those possessed by the Washington government over the United States territories, that is to say an absolute jurisdiction, a discretionary power.

3. The vested rights of the minority for thirty years back, the object of the legislation of 1875, the motives which brought it about, the progress of the country, liberty of conscience, the respect and protection which the federal government owes to people of all races and all creeds, all these circumstances impose on us the moral obligation of maintaining the present school system of the Northwest.

4. In doing so, we assert the principle contained in the constitution of 1867, which was an actual compromise based on the toleration and mutual concessions which people of various races and creeds, called upon by Providence to live in close proximity, owe to one another, in their own interest. National unity will not suffer thereby, for, as I stated, only a few weeks ago, in speaking to the motion proposed by the hon. member for Victoria and Haliburton, imperial federation and national unity can only be brought about by the spread of a national feeling. And national feeling, I added, consists in loyalty to the Crown and loyalty to the empire; in the love of the country and of the institutions under which we live; it consists in doing away of all ill-feeling between the various sections of the population; it consists in the observance of treaties and of existing compacts.

And so to those who would, for the furtherance of mean party purposes, fan the

Mr. BRUNEAU.

flame of national prejudice, I submit to their consideration and to that of the whole House, those admirable words, those great truths uttered one day before the Marquis of Lorne, in the course of a lecture on patriotism, by one of our most distinguished public men, the Hon. Honoré Mercier:

Canadians who do not speak our tongue are not enemies, they are merely competitors; they have ceased being our enemies on the day, when obeying the laws of civilization, England, under the noble inspiration of an illustrious Queen, invited us to partake of the banquet of political liberty. From that day, we have become partners, and have solemnly pledged ourselves to forget old-time hatreds, to sacrifice them in the interest of the new institutions, as the precious token of a happier future. Let us not lose sight of these facts, if we are desirous of maintaining the tranquillity which followed the tempest of 1837. Linked together as the branches of the same tree, the various races inhabiting Canada are bound to accept that mutual responsibility of their existence, the result of circumstances, rather than of their own choice they are to live on the same sap, and our soil is rich enough to supply it in quantity. And seeing that some of them are compelled to renounce the idea of reigning over the remains of others, they should all join hands, with a noble and generous frankness, and work together towards attaining the objects which Providence keeps in store for us. The general interest of Canada, which is our common country, should supersede these of race and caste; we should not forget, we, inhabitants of a country destined to be the cradle of a great people, that though French, English, Scotch, Irish, we may be, we remain Canadians and that title should be sufficient cause for pride and a worthy enough object for our legitimate ambition. We are descended from the strongest races in the world, and we are called upon, not to perpetuate the old-time hatreds, but to constitute a grand nation, whose prospects are beautiful and whose aims are providential.

Mr. W. F. COCKSHUTT (Brantford). Mr. Speaker, it would be difficult at this stage of the debate to introduce anything new or to shed further light upon the subject under discussion. I feel, however, that in a historic debate of this nature, it is well that each member, so far as he is able, should express his views on a matter of such great importance as that contained in the proposition placed before the House by the First Minister. It is not likely that in our time we shall again be called upon to set aside territory to form two such great new provinces. The Dominion does not contain such another fertile belt as that contained in the two proposed provinces out of which to form other provinces of like value, like fertility and like resources. The right hon. gentleman, in introducing this measure to the House, dwelt very fully upon that matter, in a way that commended itself to both sides of the House, inasmuch as we all realize that a great heritage has been given to us, and that we ought, so far as we are able, to develop