

Is it proper that the Secretary of State, the official channel of communication between this government and the government of the Northwest Territories, should be a member of that committee? Is it any crime in him that he should be a Roman Catholic? Was it proper that the Minister of Justice should be a member of that committee? I am technically responsible for the drafting of this Bill. Was it not right that I should have an opportunity to consider the representations of those who were the delegates of the people of the Northwest Territories, in order that I might know how to draft the Bill? I won't say that it is not my fault that I am a Roman Catholic, because it is. That sort of criticism, it seems to me, may well be described as the small change of parish politics.

Now a reference has been made to an opinion expressed by me long ago about the elementary schools in Quebec. I did criticise the elementary schools in Quebec, because I thought they were bad. I told the people who were interested, and upon whose votes I depended for my election, that I thought their schools were bad and they ought to improve them. They have set about improving them. But let me draw the attention of the House to this fact, that the elementary schools I criticised are not the clerical schools of the province of Quebec, they are the schools that are under control of school trustees, which trustees are elected by ratepayers—those are the schools that I criticised. The clerical schools of the province of Quebec are the colleges of that province where the Catholic members from that province were in large part educated; and without saying anything in favour of the system of education in the province of Quebec—you have heard some of our French colleagues from that province speak in this House, and may I not say of the school system that produces the men who represent that province, and the men who made these speeches: *Justificata est Sapientia e filiis suis*.

Now, Mr. Speaker, after having apologized for trespassing so far on the attention of this House, I want to say a word in praise of the calm and dignified attitude in the present circumstance of the people of the province of Quebec, that much maligned province which was said to be so deficient and backward in the cause of education. Take the facilities for higher education offered by Laval University, and you shall find that the blessings of a liberal education are brought within the reach of a poorer class of people in the province of Quebec than is probably the case in any other country in the world. There are no great endowments to make fees a matter of slight consequence, but the spirit of self-sacrifice is abiding tradition within its walls, and its doors are open to all-comers because its professors are content to work for a mere pittance.

On the other hand, nowhere has private wealth recognized its public duties with greater generosity than in that province. It is not necessary to recall in the presence of the members of the Canadian House of Commons the names of the men whose benefactions have endowed McGill University with the revenues of a principality.

We must all admit to-day that the hammer stroke that drove home the last rivet in the last rail in the line which now unites the west and the east with a band of iron did something more than complete one of the greatest engineering feats of the kind. It put an end to the old era in which Canada was a mere geographical expression for a number of sundered and mutinous and sometimes squabbling provinces, and it gave to the conscious nation what it shall ever show in the face of trial—a backbone of steel. This scheme originated in the province of Quebec and was carried to a successful completion by men from that province. I shall not attempt to forecast the future, or to say what fate Heaven holds in store for the people of the Northwest Territories—a people so blessed in the past, and so greatly expectant of the morrow, and so truly the heirs of the best that the old world had to give. The earth and the riches thereof is stretched out before them, inviting them to the work of developing to the utmost the resources of their great inheritance, and the task may well occupy the noblest energies of their children and of their children's children.

But if they look back to the small beginnings of Canadian history they shall see that fidelity and constancy have been the conspicuous qualities in the characters of both the great stocks from which the Canadian people are mainly derived.

It may, therefore, be inferred without rashness that they are not likely to run after strange fads, but rather to stand in the ancient ways, true to the principles of justice and fair-play, and not likely to be driven by stripes or attracted by even the most brilliant stars as I have heard it sometimes suggested; but instead thereof, a free and contented people, to work out their destinies in these young provinces under the benign influence of the generous, equitable principles of the Canadian constitution.

At six o'clock, House took recess.

After Recess.

The House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. S. BARKER (Hamilton). Mr. Speaker, in the remarks I am about to make I hope I shall be able to avoid everything which may have the appearance of what some hon. gentlemen opposite call intolerance. I may say that I have never yet heard one remark from a member on this side of the House that deserved such an epithet. I am glad to be able to say that