

be who think that if a thing be said often enough, it must be true; if it be said loud enough it must be important. But we may hope that these are not in a majority, and until they are, the controversial methods which Dr. Clifford has so abundantly exemplified can win no permanent success.

I think, Sir, these words, wise, clear, and epigrammatic as they are, fairly well describe the condition of affairs which hon. gentlemen opposite are trying to excite in this country; and I think the outcome of it will be just what Mr. Balfour has described as the outcome of the agitation in England at that time. Sir, we have the spectacle of the hon. leader of the opposition moving an amendment for which he cannot even carry his own party, still less attract votes from outside of his party. We have him appealing to provincial rights. We have him appealing to a very small and unimportant part of provincial rights, and ignoring the right of restriction in regard to education lest we may magnify the general right. We find his friends, and largely his press, appealing against separate schools; and here again they cannot carry with them those who, in their party as in ours, are best able to judge of the results of separate schools, the Quebec wing of the Conservative party. We find, on the one side this insensate and fanatical appeal. We find, on the other side, a united party, a party which, in bringing forward these important measures, have consulted everybody interested in the question, have taken the necessary steps to see that Catholic and Protestant, local and other interests, should all have their opportunity of expressing their views, have discussed the matter in detail, in every line and every word, and, having done that, have introduced a measure which, a compromise it is true, but a well thought out and successful one, now appeals for support to the people of this country. Sir, here as always the Tories stand for coercion, while the Liberals stand for conciliation and the recognition of the rights of the minority. Here as always we find the struggle between the two classes of people in the country. I have full enough confidence in the people of this Canada of ours, in the electors all over the country, in every part and in every province, to believe that, even though for the moment some—not a majority, Sir—not even a large minority—may be led away and blinded by fanatical appeals, appeals mostly made with sinister and ulterior motives, and not honest or sincere in their wording or action, to believe, Sir, that public opinion will settle down to the full and satisfied conviction that a difficult and even perhaps dangerous problem has been solved in a statesmanlike and wise manner; and that our country, disturbed and alarmed for the moment, will then shake herself free of this nightmare, and again move on in her material, moral and intellectual progress, aided and strengthened by the addition of two new members to the family

**Mr. FISHER.**

of provinces, helping us to build up our great Dominion, and holding a contented population, no part of which will feel that they have a grievance, but all mutually respecting the rights of those who do not see exactly eye to eye with them on educational matters. But if, in contradistinction with this, the policy of the Tory party were to be carried out, and we were to create a festering sore among the people of that country who did not happen to come under the approval of hon. gentlemen opposite, we would have a check to the progress of that north-western country which would be fatal to the interests of the whole Dominion, and would not only check our progress in the future, but would take away from us much of the great advance and progress which we have made in the near past. I am satisfied that the great mass of the people of Canada will believe this, and, believing it, will support and endorse it. I do not like to prophesy; it is better to state things after the event; but from what hon. gentlemen opposite and their press in the country have said, it is probable that this Bill and these clauses will be supported in this House by the largest majority that has been given to any government measure for many years. Sir, I can expect that; I think we have a right to expect it; because these clauses embody a compromise in which the rights of every party, having been consulted, are recognized and considered, and embody a principle which is the essence of our confederation compact, and which, being carried out, will contribute to the progress and advancement of the country, but without which Canada must necessarily be divided on religious and racial lines in a way that will be fatal to her future development.

Mr. Speaker, I will not detain you or this House longer. I trust that these few words will throw a little light, at any rate on one or two points of this question. I have tried thus to put before the House the reasons why, as a Protestant from the province of Quebec especially, I am in favour of separate schools, and why I want to see them introduced into the Northwest Territories, and their continuance guaranteed on behalf of the Catholic minority there. I speak not only as a member from the province of Quebec, but as a member of the government of Canada, and a citizen who is interested in our country, and I believe, Sir, that the only way by which we can cement the people of this country together is by conciliation, by recognition of the rights of minorities, by helping the weak in order to make them as good as the strong.

At six o'clock, House took recess.

#### After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. H. B. AMES (St. Antoine, Montreal).  
Mr. Speaker, after this question has occu-