

Canadian Catholic clergy and population; if he were taught in the schools these things, I would have no fear for the result, and would be confident that he would resist any malicious appeals, because he is a moderate man and a man who ponders well before he acts.

Mr. Speaker, I am about to close. I have detained the House longer than I intended, but I find I must claim your indulgence a little longer. I say it is of vital interest, admittedly, that the citizens of this country should not lose sight of their rights but it is far more important that they should not overlook their duties. To sum up my idea, this is the inevitable conclusion to which we must arrive, that the efforts of statesmen and public powers shall always be vain and fruitless if they are not founded on the spirit of good faith and toleration, on that broad spirit of Christianity, vivifying hundreds of thousands of firesides throughout this great land. That spirit of toleration and mutual forbearance between creeds and nationalities in the great west as well as in the older portions of our beloved country, will alone give that social, intellectual, moral and material foundation without which no nation can rise to permanent greatness.

Let us not shelter ourselves under the flimsy parapet of legal technicalities; and if ever doubt should enter our minds, if our path should appear full of difficulties, let us rise to the great responsibilities of our office with courage, justice and a spirit of fair-dealing. Let us ignore both the zealot and the bigot, and plant our feet in the solid ground of honourable compromise. Let us above all remember that this is a land, unparalleled, perhaps, and certainly unsurpassed for its immense resources, and its future possibilities, to which we invite the civilized nations of the old world; and if we desire to be a true nation, a worthy product of the 20th century, we must be prepared to sink and melt our individual differences in the warm rays of the sun of justice and liberty.

Mr. J. BARR (Dufferin). As the hour is late, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the House should rise and would beg to move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. FIELDING. The hon. member was not present last evening when there was, perhaps, what I might call an understanding that we should sit later into the night. At all events the observation was made that in assenting to an early adjournment last evening, we should, in order that this debate should be advanced in a reasonable way, work harder and sit later, and I think that is the temper of the House.

Mr. BARR. I must of course, bow to the will of the House. I should not attempt to address the House on this subject, did

I not think it was my bounden duty not to give a silent vote on this Autonomy Bill. In voting, as I intend to do, for the amendment of the leader of the opposition, I do not wish to be understood as being opposed to giving to the fullest extent provincial rights to all the great lone land of the Northwest. But before entering upon the remarks I intend to make on the Bill itself, I desire for a short time to follow my hon. friend who has just sat down. I was pleased to learn that the hon. gentleman is not a lawyer, because I naturally supposed that he would take pains to steer clear of the constitutional question which has taken up so much of our time. I think we might well leave that question to be threshed out by the lawyers who, so far as we can judge, will leave it just as hazy as it was when they entered the discussion. And after we shall have heard all the learned arguments advanced by the gentlemen of the legal profession on the one side or the other, I have no doubt that we shall come back to the same conclusion which has always prevailed in the past, and that is that it is their duty to make black appear white and right wrong. And as that is part of their business, I am glad to know that I am not a lawyer, but a doctor. But there is one thing which I presume every hon. gentleman will admit, and that is that it is the duty of this House to make laws, and that, on the other hand, it is the duty of the courts to interpret them, and whether we arrive at the conclusion that this Bill is ultra vires or otherwise, I presume the end will be that it will have to go to the Privy Council. And as that court is composed of human beings who are also lawyers, the probability is that they will give a decision according to the temper in which they are and according as their digestion is good or bad. We shall therefore have to wait for their decision to decide whether this Bill is legal or not. But I venture to say that the free and independent elector, the ordinary man, as he reads the 92nd clause of the British North America Act, will have no hesitation in concluding that so far as education is concerned, that is a question which has to be left to the province, with the exception that this parliament has the right to pass a remedial law in the event of any province not carrying out the law as it is in the statute-books.

My hon. friend has said we should live in peace and harmony. We all agree with that, we would like to live in peace and harmony with all men in all parts of this fair Dominion of ours, but in order to do that we have rights and we have privileges which we must guard and guard safely. We must remember that the majority have rights which they should exercise just as freely as do the minority. My hon. friend attempted to make a point against the lead-