

that in the hands of the Minister of Justice and the Prime Minister, these two great potters so to speak, the Postmaster General was as clay and that they moulded him to their desires. When the Bill was introduced in the first instance \$5,000,000 worth of property was set apart for public schools was contrary to all principles of the separation of church and state of which the Postmaster General must be an advocate if he wishes to represent North York—made to contribute for all time to come to the support of the education system of the Roman Catholics of the new provinces. The Bill with a provision having this was presented to this House and applauded by the Postmaster General, so that one must conclude that he was but as clay in the hands of the skilful Minister of Justice. The Postmaster General will have to fight that out with the people of his own riding if he ever faces them again; he will have to explain to them why he so cheerfully surrendered all his old principles. And, if he can satisfy the electors of North York, and if the Liberal party can satisfy the people of Canada—I do not think they will—then possibly the Postmaster General may realize that ambition to attain which he surrendered the rights of the people of the new provinces which ought to have been safe in his keeping. The hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) said yesterday that the people are thinking and I repeat, Sir, that the people of Canada are thinking. When this question was launched a few weeks ago it assumed great importance, but since then a further and still more important issue has been forcibly presented, that is, that undue influences are at work controlling and guiding the administration in a manner which should not be possible in a free British country. There is the fact—and the Prime Minister has not dared to deny it—that he has had conference after conference with the Papal ablegate, not only as to clause 16 of the original Bill but as to the amended educational clause which was substituted for it. This latter clause was brought in to quiet the rebellion in the Liberal camp, but so far as the vital principle is concerned as to whether or not the rights of the provinces shall be respected, there is not one tittle of difference between the new clause and the old. It is time for the people of Canada to think and they are doing their own thinking and don't you forget it. If the gentlemen on the government benches would leave the sinister influences which surround them in the city of Ottawa and go out into the country, they would find what the prevailing state of public opinion is. They would find that the people are clamouring against this Bill, and Sir, the people would clamour still more if they knew that the measure is to be rushed through this House by the force of numbers and numbers alone, to be-

come at all events nominally the law of the land. I have met in the town of Barrie a great many Liberals—but I have not met one who has not condemned the action of the government. They are not saying much; they did not say much previous to the Ontario elections last January, but they spoke by their ballots as they dropped them into honest boxes, and they will do so again. I can tell these gentlemen opposite that they need not imagine for one moment that they are going to foist this measure upon the west in defiance of the constitutional rights of these two provinces. With Manitoba alarmed, excited, and in arms as it is against the treatment which it has received from the government, a crisis had been brought about in the affairs of Canada. That crisis is the result of the government's studied silence, of its system of misleading the people, of its system of working in the dark, of its system of retiring behind the lines of Torres Vedras before the election, and rushing out after the election, to steal away the rights of the people. Don't imagine that you can coerce the people of the west. Don't imagine that you can permanently secure even the best interests of the Roman Catholic church in this way. As the Minister of Finance said, if you treated the people of the west in a generous way, if you approached them in a fair spirit, the minority would get all the concessions they needed as is the case in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick where the Minister of Finance told us they have not separate school laws, but where the Roman Catholics enjoy vastly greater privileges than as he would have us understand it—this legislation gives the Roman Catholics of the west. I shall say no more. This is an important question; it is fraught with immense consequences for the people of Canada; it is a question upon which the people are thinking and it is a question which will not die. Had this measure been introduced in a more moderate manner and in a constitutional way it might be that we would hear no more of it at the next election. But, introduced as it was, in the absence of the constitutional advisers of the Crown, the people of the west lulled into fancied security as they were, the haste with which the leader of the government introduced it in the absence of the ministers, the language, the violent language, with which the right hon. gentleman introduced it, the statements which he made, the events which have occurred since involving the discussion of the influence exercised by the Papal ablegate over the Prime Minister of this country, the manner in which the representatives of the west have been treated, the manner too in which the land question and the question of timber, minerals, &c., have been dealt with—all these are questions which will live in the memory