

our confidences in the spirit of fair play and justice?

Mr. INGRAM. Who did it?

Mr. BELCOURT. Well, the people of Manitoba did it and the people of the North-west Territories to-morrow will do it if the hon. gentleman can have his way.

Mr. INGRAM. I stood up in 1896 for the rights of the minority in Manitoba when the hon. gentleman's deskmate refused to do it.

Mr. BELCOURT. Well, Sir, we have been told by other hon. gentlemen of what they did in 1896 and we were told yesterday by the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) that what he did in 1896 he does not propose to do again. He gave us the reason why he did not propose to do it again. He told us that it does not pay politically. That is the reason. I believe the hon. member for East Elgin (Mr. Ingram) will probably think also that it does not pay and he does not propose to do it again.

Mr. FOSTER. May I ask the hon. gentleman a question?

Mr. BELCOURT. Well, well.

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman has given an alleged reason as to why I said I would not probably do it again. His reason is—

Mr. BELCOURT. No, the hon. gentleman gave it himself.

Mr. FOSTER. His reason was that I would not do it again because it does not pay. My reason was not that.

Mr. BELCOURT. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon; it is exactly the reason he gave. He told us that in 1896 that the people did not appreciate his self-sacrifice. That in 1900 they did not appreciate his self-sacrifice; that in 1904 they did not appreciate his self-sacrifice and he said that politically it did not pay and for that reason he was not going to do it again.

Mr. FOSTER. It is now put so baldly that I must deny it absolutely and ask the hon. member either to give his authority from the 'Hansard' or to immediately withdraw it—one or the other, and I appeal to Mr. Speaker to see that that is carried out.

Mr. BELCOURT. If the hon. gentleman gets very threatening perhaps he will not have it carried out. If he will appeal to my instincts and desire me—

Mr. FOSTER. No.

Mr. BELCOURT. I have the floor.

Mr. FOSTER. And if you wish to persist in saying what you have you may keep it. If you do not wish to be honest and fair and do what an honest and fair man would do you may keep it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order, order.

Mr. BELCOURT. Well, if the hon. gentleman has ended this show of inflamed temper perhaps he will allow me to proceed. I understood the hon. gentleman to tell the House that in 1869 he had, much against his own inclination, much against his own desires, supported the Remedial Bill. He did it, he told us, when he had no desire to do it. He did it because he wanted to protect the rights of the minority. I understood him to say that his course was not appreciated by the people of this country, that in the election which immediately followed this great act of disinterestedness on his part was not appreciated by the people and that on the contrary they supported the opposite side. I understood him to say that the same thing happened in 1900 and again in 1904, that it did not pay politically, and that as far as he was concerned that was the end of his sacrificing himself. If I am wrong in my understanding of what the hon. gentleman said I am wrong honestly. That is the impression which I gathered from his speech, but if the hon. gentleman tells me that it is not the language which he used I am prepared to accept his statement. Perhaps he will permit me to read what he did say on that point.

Mr. FOSTER. Read; that will be better.

Mr. BELCOURT. (reading):

Now, Sir, I never was a separate school adherent, I never believed in separate schools as against national schools. In 1896 I stated my belief, as I state it now; I knew it was not politically to my advantage, I knew it was not politically to the advantage of the Liberal Conservative party; but, Sir, without thinking of ulterior things, I said to myself—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. BELCOURT. Perhaps my hon. friend will allow me to read:

—there is the constitution, there is the pronouncement of the highest judicial tribunal in this empire, there is the minority coming with a grievance and having the right to appeal to the Dominion government and the Dominion parliament, the only power that has jurisdiction to right their wrongs I said to myself: I believe it is right, I believe in the policy of attempting to carry out the constitution. Let me ask this question: If my right hon. friend, in 1896, had thrown his forces with the forces that made for remedial legislation, who can doubt that we would have carried it in this country? No one can doubt it.

At page 3384 of 'Hansard' the hon. gentleman went on:

And I make bold to say that as long as grass grows and water runs, I do not feel disposed to go against that will three times expressed of the people of this country.

I have nothing to withdraw, I refuse to accept the statement which the hon. gen-