

After Recess.

House resumed at Eight o'clock.

Mr. G. BOYER (Vaudreuil). (Translation.) Mr. Speaker, it is with some emotion and fear that I rise to take part in the discussion which has been going on for several weeks between a number of leading hon. members on both sides of the House. Following in the footsteps of the hon. member for Haldimand, I trust my hearers will not lose sight of the fact that I am fighting my first battle on the floor of the House, within whose precincts racial and religious passions have waxed warm of late, amidst, on the one hand, the noble accents of legitimate vindications and, on the other, dangerous and foolish appeals to prejudice, the whinings of deceptive and chimerical fears.

I have listened, Mr. Speaker, to the two leaders and to followers of each one of them. One of these is at the head of the party which has been governing this country in such an admirable way for nearly nine years. The other is heir to an enfeebled party, the leader of a loyal opposition but, it is time it should be stated, of an opposition unsettled in its aim and framing its policy on a basis of unpardonable intolerance.

The issue between these two leaders and their followers is, Mr. Speaker, a most important one. You have, Sir, listened to the discussion which has been going on and you are in a position to decide whether the parallel which I am about to draw as to the respective merits of the stands taken by them is acceptable and reasonable.

The hon. leader of the government has the almost unanimous support, under the circumstances, of hon. members on this side of the House, while the hon. leader of the opposition, finding differences of opinion among his followers has thought fit to leave them free to vote as they please. I quote his own words: (See Hansard, page 2929).

I say, that, in taking the position which I shall now take, I do not for one moment suggest that any hon. gentleman on this side of the House, following the dictates of his conscience and of his good judgment should feel himself in any way constrained by party ties to endeavour to agree with the views which I shall express.

Now, we have observed, Mr. Speaker, that several of that hon. gentleman's followers have taken advantage of the privilege thus granted them, since we see rising against the amendment moved by the leader of the opposition such men as the hon. members for Jacques-Cartier, Beauharnois, Cornwall, L'Islet and others.

It is not my intention to enter into a detailed discussion of the Bill, the provisions of which have been already fully debated. I lack the boldness to do so, and besides, I may be permitted to state that I have come too late to shed new light on the subject, all available material having been al-

ready utilized. On the other hand, I see before me in this House quite a number of leading gentlemen, supporters of the government, who will carry on the discussion with ability, and who will succeed no doubt, in enlivening it more than once. That difficult task, I shall leave to them to perform.

I shall confine myself, Mr. Speaker, to a very few remarks. In the first place, on the organization of these provinces; in the second place, on the educational clause of the Bill; in the third place, on the spirit of intolerance of certain hon. members, and fourthly, I shall conclude with some general remarks.

Canada is progressing faster than any other country. Our export trade, within recent years, has increased in greater ratio than that of any other country in the world; and the output of the Northwest Territories, makes up a large proportion of our total trade returns.

I shall merely state the value of the output of cereals in the Northwest: In 1903, it was valued at \$55,000,000, not to speak of other agricultural commodities, dairy products and live stock. The following statistics give us an idea of the possibilities of the Northwest Territories as regards three leading cereals:—

	1898.	1903.
Wheat.. . . .	5,542,478 bush.	16,629,149 bush.
Oats.. . . .	3,040,307 bush.	14,179,705 bush.
Barley.. . . .	449,512 bush.	1,741,209 bush.

The population of these Territories, which in 1891 numbered only 98,967, rose in 1901 to 211,649, and reaches just now 500,000. In those prairies, formerly, a few huts were strewn here and there; to-day, houses are closer, sturdy farmers have built their homes all over this once desert land. Villages, large communities have sprung up here and there over these great and fertile plains.

These localities have their banking houses, their business firms, their lawyers, their doctors, their brokers, in a word all the essentials of commerce and progress.

Bold, ambitious and industrious settlers have come there from all parts to make their homes. A goodly number come from the United States, others from Europe, from the mother country and other parts of the old continent; then the older provinces of the Dominion, and more especially Ontario and Quebec, has sent a good many. That influx of immigrants which I am referring to just now, has been constantly increasing of late years, and we are forced to admit that, through the ingress of these thousands of settlers, through their daily work, through their unsparing efforts, the axis of the Dominion will be displaced towards the west. For the Northwest, with its magnificent farming areas, its grazing lands, which are the richest in America, is generally recognized as the greatest field open to settlement; and the best proof in