

Mr. ZIMMERMAN. When did the interview take place between the Prime Minister and the gentleman referred to?

Mr. COCKSHUTT. My hon. friend asked me a question I am not able to answer; but if he had been attending to his duties in the House, he would have heard the charge made on several occasions in the First Minister's presence and would have known that the First Minister did not deny it.

Mr. ZIMMERMAN. He gave it the most definite denial.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. If he did, I certainly did not hear it. I was here when the hon. member for North Toronto (Mr. Foster) twice repeated the question, and he said: if the right hon. gentleman will deny it, let him speak now. The right hon. gentleman kept his seat and did not speak. Will my hon. friend himself deny that such an interview took place? If he will, I shall accept his statement. He is in the inner circle and I am on the outside edge, and I shall accept his statement if he will say there was no such interview. If not he should not interrupt me. I have no desire at all to hurt the feelings of my hon. friend from Hamilton (Mr. Zimmerman). Personally we are the best of friends and I hope he will take the opportunity of speaking his mind on the subject before us, and to anything he may have to say with regard to the views I have advanced, I shall give my profound attention. He has questioned my statement, and I do not wish, in the absence of the First Minister, to say anything which I would not say if he were present. I do not wish personally to antagonize a single member of this House. There is not one who, so far as I know, is not friendly to me, and to whom I have not friendly feelings. I have not the honour of being acquainted with all the members, but in this debate I am speaking what I believe to be right and true, I am giving expression to my own convictions, I am willing that every other hon. member should have the same freedom, and I trust that I shall listen to them with the same respect and attention as they have kindly given to me.

I have endeavoured to point out to hon. gentlemen some matters they have lost sight of with regard to the population of the Northwest Territories. I have pointed out that the Roman Catholics are not in the minority but are larger, stronger and more aggressive than any other denomination, and therefore they are not entitled to come to us, more than any other class, and ask for full consideration to minorities. They are not a minority, and therefore we should not be charged with refusing to do the minority justice. Certainly I would have no desire to do anything of the kind. In fact I have been charged with taking the weak under my wing, and I am always ready to

shield the weak, so far as I am able. But no one can doubt that the Roman Catholic church is well able to take care of itself. It is doing so to-day, and is making perhaps more rapid progress than any other body. But what I want to impress upon the House is that in carving out these two new provinces in the Northwest, we should be careful to give them a clean bill of rights. We should keep back nothing which is due to them. We should rather be inclined to be generous, and I am not aware that the financial terms have been found fault with. But I would like the new provinces to get more land and less cash. I would treat these provinces with generosity. I would give them a clean bill of rights and not withhold from them one jot or tittle of what they are entitled to. They are young provinces, just starting on their career, and are entitled to the very best send-off which the old provinces of Canada can give them. Let us send them off with a clean bill of rights. Let us give them the right to place on their statute-books any laws with regard to education which they may judge proper. Let them go out into the world with that charter of right and that freedom which belongs to the great western plains of which they are the young offspring. If we do that, we shall have no cause for regret, but if we attach a string to the right to which they are entitled, we will be creating a constant source of friction. We will not be finally settling this great question, but will make of it a thorn in their side just as it has been in the side of some of the older provinces. I ask that the same mistake which was made in Manitoba should not be made with regard to these great provinces in the west. We are all striving for the best advantage of Canada according to our best light and knowledge. I give hon. gentlemen opposite that same freedom to express their views which I ask for myself, and I believe they are expressing their convictions just as I am giving expression to mine. We are striving to start out those new provinces on their race for life in a way which we will never have to regret, and we are endeavouring to set up there a citizenship that throughout all time will enjoy the full rights and privileges which are enjoyed by any or all of the older provinces. I believe that we are entering upon an era the like of which we will never see again in this country. We will never again have the opportunity of establishing and starting out two such vast provinces as those two we are now creating. Should we not then do the work heartily and generously? After all we are striving to do what we believe is best in the interests of our country; and in that view and in the belief that the amendment moved by the leader of the opposition is the one best calculated to promote peace and good will, I propose to support it. That amendment I shall take the liberty of reading so that there may