

development of our race and our influence in the Dominion.

In 1889, Mr. Dalton McCarthy took up the policy advocated of old by Mr. Geo. Brown, or rather that advocated by the oligarchy and family compact, in the years following the conquest, when every effort was made to anglicize us at all cost, by inducing us to renounce what we regarded as our national heritage, our institutions, our tongue and our laws, under the fallacious pretext of national unity. The by-word was then: 'Let us abolish the separate schools and the use of the French language.' That is the object, not openly stated perhaps, but quite apparent on the part of several. They do not all speak out, of course, as does Mr. Crawford, who for one, wishes to do away with the constitution. This agitation is carried on, moreover, with a view to injuring the government, for the west is satisfied. I may be permitted to lay before the House the following correspondence published a few days ago in the Montreal 'Witness,' being letters exchanged by William Drysdale, of Montreal, and Mr. James Short of Calgary. It may have the effect of cooling the untoward zeal of some hon. members, of allaying their fears and showing them how unwarranted and ridiculous is the agitation which they are carrying on about a question concerning which the people of the Northwest, be they of the Catholic minority or of the Protestant majority, remain perfectly calm:

Mr. Drysdale wrote to Mr. Short, on the date of March 13:—

May I ask you to give me some idea of the school question? Where are we at? I cannot make anything out of the question, absolutely nothing. What do you think would be best under the circumstances for the Northwest, for the new provinces? Do Catholics in the Territoires demand the same privileges as Protestants in Quebec?

Mr. Short, of Calgary, answered as follows:

Your letter of March 13 is somewhat a surprise to me. I do not know anything of the privileges enjoyed by the Protestant minority in the province of Quebec. As regards separate schools in the Territories, I may say that advantage has not been taken of them to any great extent. One per cent only of the schools in the Territories are Catholic separate schools. The school system here is such as cannot be taken exception to. There is only one series of text-book; the inspectors are the same for all establishments; the standard of qualification for teachers is uniform; the standard of classification for schools, whether Protestant or Catholic is also uniform.

Under those circumstances, no such drawbacks as those resulting from the Ontario system of separate schools, are felt here.

There is no agitation carried on in the Territories in respect to schools and no change whatever in the present system is called for.

Besides, the people of the west themselves will be called upon to express their views, within a few days, and to state whether or not they approve of the school policy of the government, as the latter have taken up the

Mr. BRUNEAU.

challenge of the opposition and opened one of the counties concerned, in connection with the election of the new Minister of the Interior.

The people of the west are going to speak out. We will be in a position to judge of the effect of the foolish boast of the opposition and of their mean appeals to religious and national prejudices.

The people of the west are going to speak out. We will know what is the result of the agitation started by the hon. member for East Grey, for he is the man who, by his letter to the Orange lodges, fanned the flame of bigotry. These appeals to the prejudices of the people have their object: that of enlisting the aid of religious bigots. They are miserable political expedients, which may meet with some temporary success, and by means of which those in power may be made to suffer to some extent; but they are unworthy of any one who has a true love for his country and his fellow-citizens. At any rate, as these prejudices have no solid foundation they are bound to disappear very soon before the brilliant light of justice and truth.

The discussion carried on in the French Canadian newspapers, 'La Presse,' 'La Patrie' and 'Le Canada,' is of an altogether different character. These papers have remained calm, in the face of the storm of abuse, of vile insinuations, let loose against our race, our religious institutions. Quebec is being sarcastically represented as given over, hands and feet bound, to the Catholic hierarchy. What was the Jacques Cartier club of Montreal, the essence of Toryism in our province, thinking about when it undertook to have those petitions which we have heard about sent from all quarters, from all counties. What was its object? To embarrass the government. The motive was a different one, but the object was the same, in the case of that Conservative club, as in that of the hon. member for East Grey. To regain power, such is the highest aim of our opponents in their political warfare. To fan the flame of prejudice, to set one against the other the various races, the various provinces, to promote racial hatred, to let loose the demon of religious antagonism, such are the means they have recourse to in order to overthrow the government. Such is the ungracious task which the majority of the Conservative party have set themselves to, under the fallacious pretense of upholding provincial rights, in the case of the hon. member for East Grey, and under that of ensuring a full measure of justice to the Catholics of the Northwest, in the case of the Jacques Cartier club.

It is no use trying to hide the fact. The separate school is objected to, on the ground that it is an impediment to the unification of the various races inhabiting this country. Do you wish for a proof of this? Listen to Mr. Willison, editor of the 'News' who spoke in the following terms at the Toronto meeting on the 21st of March last.