

believe the bishops. Later on he says that after he had been many times to see Cardinal Ledochowski he was told to go to Cardinal Rampolla. It is no use going over all these things at this late hour to show the work which was done by the emissaries of the government or their friends, by Mr. Drolet and later on by the Minister of Justice and by Mr. Russell and all the work that was done to find a way of preventing the bishops in Canada from telling the right hon. gentleman that he had deceived them. Then Monseigneur Merry del Val was sent here; he came here as a delegate and went throughout the country and my impression is that he was sadly deceived and that he made a report along that line. He had been deceived but that did not prevent them—because in Rome they are very slow before rendering a judgment.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. BERGERON. Yes, it takes a long time before they make up their minds, but they very seldom make a mistake. When the judgment was rendered it was shown that the settlement of the Manitoba school question was inefficient, incomplete and—

Mr. MORIN. Not accepted.

Mr. BERGERON. Inacceptable, that is what it is, and it has remained in that state ever since. Never did any bishop or priest in Canada ask to have this delegate from the Holy See. It seems to me that it would have been very important that these high dignitaries of the church should have been consulted unless that dignity was brought out here to hold them in check and to prevent them from expressing their opinions as they used to do before. I find here:

Is it the episcopate that has asked for the delegate? No, the episcopate is united and being above political parties it is working towards the acquisition of our rights and the triumph of our principles.

Monseigneur Merry Del Val was not here very long. He was replaced by His Excellency Monseigneur Falconio. Monseigneur Falconio was only in the country for a short time. He was replaced by the present delegate. I have not a word to say against the fact that he is the delegate here. It does not make any difference to me personally, but I believe the presence of the delegate here is humiliating to the Canadian episcopate.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. BERGERON. Yes; I believe that if you consult our bishops, not only in the province of Quebec, but everywhere throughout the Dominion of Canada, you will obtain that answer, and I say it is due to the course which has been pursued by the right hon. leader of the government. I repeat again that if the right hon. gentleman and if the Liberal party had rendered justice

to the minority of Manitoba in 1896, or rather if they had not prevented the Conservative party from rendering justice at that time, there would have been no occasion for a delegate in this country.

Mr. A. JOHNSTON. The hon. gentleman (Mr. Bergeron) has said that it was a humiliation to the bishops and priests of Canada to have a delegate in this country. Will he submit the name of any bishop or priest who regards the presence of the delegate as a humiliation?

Mr. BERGERON. I will repeat the assertion, and I will ask my hon. friend (Mr. A. Johnston) to bring a letter from any bishop or priest saying that what I have said is not true.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. When the first delegate came to this country, I think he was received with great pomp by the bishop of Quebec.

Mr. BERGERON. My hon. friend will surely not place himself in any disagreeable position. He knows that His Excellency has the respect, esteem and affection of all the bishops in this Dominion, and if that were not the case they would not long remain in their sees, because he is the representative of His Holiness; but between having a respect for his personality and yielding obedience to him, and being happy and glad to see him here, there is a difference. The hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) spoke this evening about coercing Manitoba. If my hon. friend had been in the province of Quebec in 1896, he would not have heard such language as that used by his friends. They never spoke about coercion in Quebec. I would ask my hon. friend from Labelle (Mr. Bourassa) if it is a matter of rendering justice where justice is due, he would refrain from what some people call coercion, but what my hon. friend and myself would call an act of justice. It is an operation. It is sometimes painful to perform an operation, but you have to do it so as to save the body.

Mr. BOURASSA. Is the hon. gentleman asking me a question?

Mr. BERGERON. Yes.

Mr. BOURASSA. I will give him my reply. The position I took in 1896 in my election was this, and I am just as much a friend of the minority in Manitoba as I was then. I am just as convinced as my hon. friend is that the minority in Manitoba does not enjoy that to which it is entitled, but what I said in 1896, and what I still say, is that the manner in which the Conservative party had played with the Manitoba school question for ten years had made it perfectly impossible to expect anything from the application of the Remedial Bill passed by this parliament, and that, as did my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, I expected more from the policy of concilia-