

We know that if this country is ever to be great we must for ever bury all questions of religious or racial nature, we must proceed upon broad lines, upon the broad lines that have been laid down and followed by the right hon. Prime Minister in this country during the last eight years when we have had the proud satisfaction of knowing that the trade of Canada has more than doubled, and when we find that the tide of immigration has been turned towards Canada and that our population is increasing by leaps and bounds. I was glad to hear the right hon. the First Minister the other day say that while the nineteenth century had been the century of progress of the United States, the twentieth century would be the century of progress of the people of Canada. Let us look for a moment at the history of the United States after the close of the civil war, after they had settled their differences at a very great cost in blood and treasure. When the North-western States along the Mississippi and Missouri valleys were opened for settlement, when the credit of the country and security for life and property were firmly established and people began to flow into those new states in millions and bring in their millions of money to develop their resources, it is on record that a western statesman made the remark that a man only needed to put his ear to the ground to hear the tramp of the coming millions. So, when we have settled our racial and sectarian disputes, we may hope to see people going into our western country, not as now in hundreds of thousands, but in millions—when we can place our ear to the ground and hear the tramp of the coming millions. It is the duty of the members of this House to consider in what ways we can make the people of that country happy and contented rather than to try to create trouble and distrust by inefficient legislation and to stir up religious strife and difficulty. As one of the means of stirring up religious strife in this country we find that attacks have been made upon respectable members of the Roman Catholic church on the ground that they have tried to influence legislation. While it may appear that the vote which I shall give on this occasion to have the system of the Northwest ordinances continued may be favourable to our Catholic brethren, I may say that from the time I came to this House as a member, there has never been a Roman Catholic to speak to me or to ask me to vote for this Bill; and I believe the same is the experience of large numbers of the members of this House. Therefore I say it does not lie in the mouths of hon. gentlemen opposite to try to impute any such designs to any members of this House. Some of these accusations have been made because the present government refused to extend the western boundary of the province of Manitoba. To quote again from the same letter of the hon. premier Haultain to

Mr. HALL.

the Hon. Clifford Sifton, of January 31, 1903, we find Mr. Haultain referring to the matter as one which had been submitted to the electors of the Northwest Territories in the same election address, saying: 'Annexation in part to Manitoba has not a single advocate in this House.' That is a communication that was sent to the members of this government as far back as January, 1903, in order to show that the people of the Northwest provinces were not in favour of the extension of the boundaries of Manitoba towards the west. We find also that a certain amount of party capital is sought to be created because the boundaries of Manitoba have not been extended to the north immediately on that being asked for, and because the province of Ontario was given an opportunity to have its views expressed in regard to the territory lying north of the provinces of Ontario and Manitoba. We find that the Toronto 'Mail' of this day has an editorial under the heading, 'Standing up for Ontario,' in which it says:

The stand the Whitney government is taking on Ontario questions will commend itself to the people of this province. Mr. Whitney was early in the field demanding an extension of the boundaries, and as a consequence a large slice of territory to the north of us will surely be ours before long. We shall then have a clear right to an area extending to the shore of Hudson bay. The new land is rich in minerals, and will no doubt be a source of wealth.

I wonder if the Toronto 'Mail' has published that at the solicitation of the Papal ablegate. And yet we find men base and mean enough, when similar views are expressed by members of this government, to endeavour to stir up religious strife and passion by imputing to them anything but correct and honest and patriotic motives which inspire the members of this government. I, therefore, feel, and feel very strongly, that it is of the utmost importance, in the consideration of this measure, that we should watch and study well the principles and the policy which guided the fathers of confederation when they formed these provinces. We should take into consideration the reasons and arguments which caused them to make their honourable compromises and harmonize their differences in order to make Canada one grand harmonious whole. I would not have the hon. members of this House take their inspiration from such firebrands as the Toronto 'News' and the Toronto 'World.' I prefer to take my inspiration from the fathers of confederation, who have set the people of Canada upon the high road of a happy, united and great nation. Animated by their bright example, we should approach the consideration of this Bill with the same unconquerable spirit, the same unflinching devotion to duty and the same patriotic zeal that inspired them. If we are guided by the example of the great