

nothing more, but which shall be put in plain language so that the man on the street may know what it means. Then, so far as I am concerned, there will be no opposition because it is a national school as both of these hon. gentlemen say, a national school with only one half hour's religious teaching between 3.30 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon. And I am sure the people of the Northwest or of Ontario, or of any other section of the Dominion will raise no objection to that.

Mr. TAYLOR. Read further.

Mr. T. MARTIN. Then we come to the speech of my hon. friend from Haldimand (Mr. Lalor) last night. He was very particular on four different occasions to state and he wound up his speech by stating:

When I vote in favour of the amendment of my hon. friend the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden), I am not voting against separate schools, and I want that distinctly understood.

I would say to these gentlemen that after we have spent something like six weeks on this question we would ask them to at once drop the discussion and fall in with us and make the passage of the Bill unanimous. If they want to vote for separate schools they can have all the opportunity they wish. The hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Lalor) also said in his speech that the leader of the government was a coward, that one of the greatest acts of cowardice that had ever been perpetrated upon this country was the appointment of the present Minister of the Interior because he had had a large majority in the last election. I never knew that it was a crime to have a large majority in this country; I never knew that a man had to sit on the back benches all his life because he had a large majority, and I believe that no fairer and no wiser act could have been done under the circumstances than the premier's action in appointing as Minister of the Interior the Hon. Mr. Oliver. The hon. member also stated that he does not believe there is a more clever man in this Dominion than Premier Haultain. I believe he is correct, I presume he is. But I notice in an interview with the Toronto 'News' that Premier Haultain when interviewed at Winnipeg spoke on this subject. The interview appears under the heading 'No Significance in Mr. Oliver's Election.' Mr. Haultain believed there was no significance, but the hon. member for Haldimand believes there was a great deal of significance. In Mr. Haultain's interview he was asked if there was any probability of the Northwest legislature being called together to pass a resolution on the question. Mr. Haultain replied in the negative. I believe Mr. Haultain is a clever man, but I say that when the hon. member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean) was challenging the Postmaster General to throw up his seat and run an election he might have gone one further and challenged Premier Haultain to call his council together and see what they

would say on the question. I believe Premier Haultain knows to-day that he dare not call his council together, I believe that if he called that council together he would be defeated in an attempt to pass any resolution or any measure that would be in any way against the Bill that we have now before us. I believe that there is no greater coward, that no man has shown himself the coward so much as Mr. Haultain. Mr. Haultain has written a letter to the premier, a letter which I have in my hand, and in it you can easily see that if it were possible that he could make any political capital out of calling his legislature together, he would do so and have a resolution passed opposing this measure. He has not been able to do so, he has been afraid to attempt to do so. Therefore I fall back upon what I said in the first place that it was rather amusing when we listened to the remarks of the speakers last night how they all skated around the question, how they were trying to get some way to crawl out the back door, stating in their arguments if you can call them arguments, as the member for Haldimand said: 'I am not voting against separate schools; I want that distinctly understood.'

Mr. LALOR. Are you voting for separate schools?

Mr. T. MARTIN. Now you leave me alone, I will attend to that before I get through. At the very outset I wish to take strong objection to some statements made by that member in his speech. He said:

I want to tell them there is no mutiny on this side.

It did not look like it.

The leader of the Conservative party told us both in caucus and out—

I suppose that means there would have been a mutiny if the leader had not told them so.

The leader of the Conservative party told us both in caucus and out to vote as our consciences dictated to us on this Bill, and that is the way we are voting on the measure.

Evidently, the leader of the opposition had reached a point where he had to tell his followers that there would have been an end to his authority. We have the evidence of half a dozen hon. members on the opposition side to prove that that is the case. And, gentlemen, I wish to go one step further and tell my hon. friend from Haldimand that he is entirely wrong when he makes this statement:

The hon. member says their consciences will not allow them to follow him. I would like to see the consciences of some members on the other side of the House who are compelled to follow the Prime Minister whether they want to or not, the men who are whipped into line, the men who have had the whip lashed over their backs, and have been brought to the centre with a round turn and made to support the