

population of all sexes and classes, went to greet him on his arrival, and they had a brass band to do honour to the occasion. but here is what I want particularly to draw your attention to. The person who led that procession was the man who had been instrumental in causing the mantle of the ex-Minister of the Interior to fall upon the shoulders of the people's representative from that district. Who was that person? Who was the man who walked with magnificent strides and martial tread and nodding plumes on his head in front of that procession? It was no less a person than 'Autonomy Bill.' He is the man who led the van, and he it was who was instrumental in causing this mantle to fall on the shoulders of Mr. Oliver. I want further to draw your attention to this fact, that the events of the day culminated by a large meeting held in the Thistle rink; and it is worth our while noticing this fact, because it stands out in large letters in the 'Evening Journal' of this city. Here is the heading of the 'Journal's' description: 'The Hon. Frank Oliver elected by acclamation and enthusiastically endorsed at a mass meeting of the citizens.' The 'Journal' goes on to mention those who were present and who spoke, and, among other things, it says that Mr. Oliver made a speech of an hour on the school question, which his admirers pronounced to be the best of his life, and then it adds: But the gallant member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean), having suffered great pain and distress, had dropped the chip from his shoulder which he was carrying on the 5th of this month, and was not present, and no opposition was offered. I draw particular attention to the fact that there was no opposition. Even the gallant member for South York (Mr. W. F. Maclean), who is so valiant, who wanted everybody to resign, so that he could contest their constituencies with them—even that hon. gentleman was not there. Why, Mr. Speaker, you know he wanted the hon. member for Centre York (Mr. Campbell) to resign; he wanted the hon. member for North York (Sir William Mulock) to resign; he went around with a chip on his shoulder like a very son of Donnybrook fair. He thought the people wanted somebody they could cheer for. He thought that was what the people wanted in the mayoralty election in Toronto. But they thought they could find somebody to cheer for without taking the advice of the hon. gentleman on that subject.

I wish to draw your attention to one feature of the Autonomy Bill which is considered by nearly all of us the most important feature in it, I refer to the educational clauses. Now, why do we support that Bill? Why is it that we are willing and anxious that the Bill should be passed just in its present form? I for one am prepared to give my reasons why I vote for it, and I want to give them in no uncertain terms, for

Mr. A. A. WRIGHT.

I desire that every one of my constituents and every person who has any respect for me shall understand why I support the Bill.

Mr. INGRAM. When did the hon. gentleman (Mr. Wright) change his opinion?

Mr. A. A. WRIGHT. Well, I may explain that to the hon. gentleman (Mr. Ingram) before I get through. I did not know that I had given my opinion to the hon. member or any body else on this subject, but I purpose giving it now, and I am not ashamed or afraid to do it, either. Now, the question is, why do I support this Bill? I support it, in the first place, because the Prime Minister and his government, having carefully considered the clauses of the British North America Act and of the Act of 1875 which established the Northwest Territories, have come to the conclusion that power was constitutionally given to the Northwest to establish separate schools. And, looking at the history of those Territories for the last thirty years, I find that they have been in the enjoyment of these separate schools. I find also that everybody who took part in the enactment of this Act of 1875 thought that the establishment of separate schools was a permanent thing. That being the case, I think we should act in good faith and maintain that system, especially when it has resulted in so much good. I believe that nations should have the same respect for their word that an individual has. And when a man gives his word he should stand by it. I believe with Voltaire who in his history of Charles XII., of Sweden, informs us that he could not see why a nation's word should not be as true as the word of an individual. We have promised the people of the Northwest Territories that they should have the privilege of separate schools, and surely we are not going back on our word. Another reason why I believe this Bill should be passed is that it secures good public schools to the people in the Northwest Territories. You may call them separate schools, but in reality they are public schools. The hon. member for Souris (Mr. Schaffner)—I think it was—stated that he did not want these schools to be called separate schools, but to be called two sets of schools.

Mr. Speaker, I was engaged in teaching for a good many years. I taught, first of all, in the province of Ontario. And now I would ask the hon. gentleman who asked me why I changed my mind to pay particular attention to what I am about to say. I attended the normal school in Toronto and took out a first-class certificate there. I taught school in the province of Ontario for three years. I then decided that I would go to the province of Quebec and take a course in the French language and see what kind of a system of schools they had there. Before I went to Quebec I had a terrible idea of separate schools. I had the same idea of