

been given us by a legislature in which the large majority is Roman Catholic. I might add that in that legislature there is not the Roman Catholic majority which the population of the province would justify, because in it, just as in this Dominion parliament, there are a number of members representing constituencies in the province of Quebec, which have large Catholic majorities, but which nevertheless elect Protestants to represent them. My hon. friend the Solicitor General (Mr. Lemieux) knows that in the last elections the Magdalen Islands—a constituency in the province of Quebec in which I do not suppose there are one hundred Protestant electors—elected a Scotch English speaking Protestant to the Quebec legislature and rejected a French Canadian Catholic candidate. We have this condition of affairs existing in our province and we value it highly, and believe it is important to us that it should be continued. It is important for the Protestants of the province of Quebec that they should be able to manage their own schools, on their own lines, and in their own way. We have never had any agitation amongst the majority of the people of the province of Quebec to take away from us one iota, jot or tittle of the advantages or privileges which we enjoy. We have never had any such display of feeling, opinion, or thought as has been displayed on the floor of this House in discussing the question in regard to the privileges of the minorities in other provinces—never one iota, jot or tittle of it. Sir, we value this, but if the principles which we have heard enunciated by hon. gentlemen opposite are to be carried out to their legitimate conclusion, if the Protestant majorities of other provinces of the Dominion are to do away with the principle of separate schools, what kind of an appeal could we make to the majority of the province of Quebec in our behalf? I do not believe for one instant that the Catholic majority of the province of Quebec would allow themselves to be influenced by these feelings, statements, or thoughts. I have no fear that in the province of Quebec the Catholic majority will take away, or make the attempt to take away our rights and privileges, but, Sir, if the principle which hon. gentlemen opposite seem to inculcate were to be adopted in Canada and if the principle of separate schools were to be eliminated from our confederation compact what kind of an appeal could we make to that majority in the province of Quebec to continue to us these privileges and rights? Sir, I do not think that it will come about in our day, and I wish as a member of this parliament from the province of Quebec to see to it that the principle adopted in 1867, the principle continued in taking in Prince Edward Island and British Columbia and the principle continued, though not carried out to its fullest extent as was intended in the Manitoba Act, shall be introduced into these Acts and

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that the minority of the new provinces shall have guaranteed to them those privileges and rights which they are to-day enjoying and which are to their advantage as they will be in the future.

I think I may say fairly that I voice the opinion of the Protestants of the province of Quebec. I regret very much to hear those expressions of opinion which have been given on the floor of this House. I regret to see them in the press of the province of Ontario. It was not always thus. These very gentlemen of the Conservative party, and this Protestant and Conservative press of the province of Ontario, were not always actuated in this way. The fathers of confederation listened to Mr. Galt and introduced the principle of separate schools. The fathers of confederation, Protestants many of them, some of them no doubt ultra Protestant, desired to have separate schools and agreed to have separate schools. I understand that in the province of Ontario there is a separate school system. I believe that it is based on the Bill which was introduced by the Hon. Mr. Scott in 1863—the Separate School Act of the province of Ontario. That Bill was debated and discussed in the old parliament of Canada, there were divisions on it, the six months' hoist of the Bill was moved, and amongst those who voted against this amendment and in favour of the Bill were John Hilliard Cameron, then Grand Master of the Orange Lodge of the province of Ontario; William Anderson, then Treasurer of the Orange Lodge of the province of Ontario; and John A. Macdonald, whose name will be familiar, I think, to hon. gentlemen opposite, as to the rest of the people in this country, and who was then a member of the Orange Lodge of that province. I am sorry, very sorry indeed, to find that the successors and the descendants of these broad-minded men, these generous and tolerant men, should assume and adopt the position that they are adopting on the question of separate schools. It would be better for the public opinion and for the future of the country if the sort of tolerance which animated the fathers of confederation were continued in their successors on the opposite side of the House.

I said a few moments ago that I believe I voiced the Protestant opinion of the province of Quebec. It may be said that the Protestant members, with the exception of myself, are influenced by the fact that they have a majority of Catholic electors. It is a poor compliment on the part of hon. gentlemen opposite to pay to their colleagues and friends to say that, notwithstanding the fact that they are not in sympathy with the government party, not in sympathy generally with our political feelings, views and ideas, they are still going to vote with us on this question, because they were afraid of their Catholic electors. It is said by hon. gentlemen opposite, that the whole of the Quebec delegation is going to vote for this