

where people are guided by the principle that here, in Canada, the lines of race and religion must be obliterated, and who demand that we shall be Canadians one and all, not rather follow him, who, during his long life, not merely on the testimony of his friends but on the testimony of those who ought to be his friends, but who have for a peculiar reason, become opponents of his, battled for civil and religious rights in the province where he was born and bred? I want to know if there is any one who has studied the history of Canada who does not recognize that great leader of the Liberal party every year of whose career as a public man is marked by progress and by some effort on behalf of the rights both civil and religious of the provinces of this confederation. But, talking about the ablegate being brought to this country, I want to know whether there is a man who will say that the sons of the Roman Catholic church who had suffered by reason of the tyranny exercised on behalf of the Conservative party should not go to the head of their church and ask for the intervention of that dignity by the appointment of a representative in Canada in order to see that the system of interference in politics which had hitherto prevailed should be obliterated from this country. That is why the ablegate came to Canada. Everybody knows that is so, and everybody knows that the reason why Quebec spoke in 1896 as she did and as she has spoken since is because the great heart of the French people rose above all those limitations which had bound them and because the people of that province recognized that in their great leader they had a man who was ever ready to stand for equal rights for all and special privileges for none. As he stood for the rights of the provinces in 1896 so he stands to-day for the constitutional rights of minorities and the recognition of the principles which the confederation compact involves and which were embodied in the constitution. But, cries such as we have heard here to-day are not new. My little province down by the sea has not turned its ear to any such appeals as seem to avail in other portions of Canada. But, in the county from which I come and in which I have run three federal elections, I want to say that in every fight we have had to contend against the canvass which was being made on behalf of the Conservative party amongst the Protestant and Presbyterian section of the electors in these words: Surely you will not vote for a Frenchman and a Roman Catholic like Laurier. That was the shibboleth of the Conservative party. But, our people rose above that. Our people recognized that he was the champion of civil and religious liberty in Canada, that he was possessed of a generous mind, that he was a believer in all that was going to make Canada great and her people happy, and they sent a unanimous delegation here to support

Mr. MACDONALD.

him. Let me say that we are unanimously behind him to-day and further let me say that upon this question we know in whom we believe. We are not asked to follow any man whose record is of a character such as I have outlined as being possessed by some hon. gentlemen opposite. We know that when the excitement upon this question passes away the Protestant people of Canada will recognize as in days that have gone, that in our great leader we have a pillar in the storm, a man who has stood above all these cries of race and religion, a man who rises above them and who sees with clear vision the path which we should follow and the principles by which we should be guided. So, I say that when the history of this country comes to be written our children's children will speak of the great leader of the Liberal party who has fought the battle of civil and religious liberty and who has stood up for the rights of provinces and minorities as one whose name will ever shine with lustre so long as Canada has a history.

Mr. T. S. SPROULE (East Grey). Mr. Speaker, if this took place in some country barnyard, I imagine I could hear some old farmer saying it is not the first time that he heard a great deal of noise and cackling for a very small egg. The hon. member for Pictou (Mr. Macdonald) has taken an hour to enlighten us on the subject before the House and he has trotted out almost every subject under the sun which suggested itself to his mind but he has studiously avoided touching the question before the House, and I think it would be quite in order for me to ask, Mr. Speaker, to read the question before the House because the attention of the House has been directed to everything except that. The hon. gentleman treated us to a great many subjects: 'Roorbacks; cold storage, Mr. Rogers' statement must be discarded; absolutely untrue; sparrow on the house tops; pelican in the wilderness; manna dropping from the tip of the tongue; fanning the flames of religious strife;—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. SPROULE. Buccaneer politicians—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. SPROULE. A political Ishmaelite—

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. SPROULE. These are a few of the subjects the member for Pictou dealt with in his very intelligent way.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. SPROULE. I presume he wishes us to imagine that we are looking towards the east, and we see the silver edged lining of the cloud which betokens the rising sun of a clear day. The effort of the hon. gentleman to enlighten the House on the subject