

ing of the great National Transcontinental Railway running from the city of Moncton to the Pacific coast. This measure was denounced by hon. gentlemen opposite in fierce language. It was declared to be one of the most outrageous Bills ever submitted to the House. The hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Osler) made a violent speech against the Bill claiming that the building of this road would cost the Dominion several hundred millions of money. The leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) fiercely denounced this Bill not only in this House but throughout the Dominion, and his words were echoed by nearly every supporter of his in the late general election. In fierce tones he asked the people: When we pay nine-tenths of the cost of this road why in Heaven's name, do not we pay the other tenth and own the road?

Mr. HENDERSON. Hear, hear.

Mr. CAMPBELL. My hon. friend from Halton (Mr. Henderson) says 'hear, hear.' He agrees with that sentiment. But he knows very well that the government are paying not only nine-tenths but ten-tenths of the cost of that road and that they own and will own it for all time to come. So, there is no foundation for the statement that we are paying nine-tenths of the cost and do not own the road. The voice of the electors from the Atlantic to the Pacific emphatically supported the policy of the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) with regard to this great work. And to-day this agitation also has passed away. We have no question now, and I hope we shall have no question, as to the Grand Trunk Pacific, for I believe that that measure was a wise one and will bring about a greater era of prosperity in this Dominion than any legislation that has been enacted for many years past or that will be enacted for many years to come. And to-day, Sir, we have before us the Bill and the amendment. The amendment, as I say, proposes and will, I believe, establish for all time to come, a system of separate schools in the Northwest Territories that the people do not want and that they abolished fourteen years ago. The Bill proposes to legalize a system that the people have established themselves, that they have approved of, that works well, that every man who knows of it says is an admirable system; and also to the people the power to change that system from time to time as the circumstances require. And I say that under these conditions I have no hesitation in supporting the Bill.

Mr. F. R. LALOR (Haldimand and Monck). Mr. Speaker, this is my first effort in parliamentary speaking, and I may say as well that I am not very much accustomed to public speaking of any kind.

Mr. CAMPBELL.

Therefore, I must ask the indulgence of the House. If I make any mistakes, I assure you is it not because I wish to misrepresent any of the arguments I seek to use. I was very much pleased with the address of the hon. member for Centre York (Mr. Campbell). I listened to him very patiently, but failed to find in his arguments very much to reply to. The hon. gentleman has given us his own interpretation of the Bill that has been introduced to this House. It seems strange that the Toronto 'Globe' the independent newspapers, the ministers of the various churches throughout the country, all give a different interpretation of this Act from the interpretation given by the hon. gentleman. It seems that he alone is an authority on this question, that he is in a better position to tell us what this Act really means than are the eminent legal gentlemen throughout this country. He told us that he was giving us something that was original. Well, Sir, in order that the hon. gentleman may know something that probably is a little more original than he has told us, something that will throw a little light upon the feeling that exists throughout this country to-day, particularly in Ontario and the Northwest Territories, I have pleasure in telling the hon. gentleman that the county of Mountain out in Manitoba, that safe seat of the Hon. Mr. Greenway, that gave him at the last general election four hundred majority, has to-day returned a Conservative by a majority of over two hundred. That, Sir, notwithstanding the fact that the hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, and especially the hon. member for Centre York (Mr. Campbell) have told us that there was no feeling in this country against these Autonomy Bills. I think that election tells us more plainly than any words that I can use, that there is a strong feeling against this government, and I can imagine that hon. gentlemen opposite on hearing that news, and on seeing the telegram that an ex-minister received a short time ago, will feel a cold chill running down their backs.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I would like to ask the hon. member when the new member elected in the county of Mountain will take his seat in this House?

Mr. LALOR. Well, I may inform the hon. member for Centre York that I have not the slightest idea that he was elected to this House, he was elected to the legislature of Manitoba, and the campaign was made on the very issue we are talking of to-night. Moreover, four Liberal members from this House went up into that constituency to speak for the Liberal candidate, nevertheless the county of Mountain, the Hon. Mr. Greenway's county, has elected a Conservative as a condemnation of this government and of this Bill.