

ber of this House, as it has required, no doubt, the greatest wisdom on the part of the government and on the part of the right hon. premier of this country. At the same time, what is there in it?—a question of right and justice, a question settled long ago by the highest tribunals in the Dominion of Canada and the British empire, though a question of right, which may have been doubted in the early years of confederation when we first appealed for this right. It was doubted for a moment by ourselves in the province of New Brunswick in the early years of confederation because at that time, owing to the harmonious relations which have existed from time immemorial in the maritime provinces between Catholic and Protestant, Scotch, Irish and French Acadians, we were in the enjoyment of privileges the source of which we knew not. These privileges we had enjoyed through the generosity of the government, but who, not being compelled to think of the future, did not insert in the constitution of their province the word 'separate' or 'dissentient' or 'denominational' schools and we were in a moment surprised when we were deprived of those rights. We appealed to the constitution. Every hon. member of this House, every man in Canada knows of the resolution brought into this House in 1872 by my hon. friend the member for Victoria, N.B. (Mr. Costigan) who occupies a place near to me at the present moment. My hon. friend, who has given 38 years of usefulness to the people of Canada, is the most highly respected and esteemed senior member of this parliament. I might say en passant that while the little province of New Brunswick has given to this House its senior member in the representative of Victoria there is also, in the other division of this parliament, not only the senior member of the Senate, but the senior legislator in the world in the person of Senator Wark. I said a moment ago that this was simply a question of right and justice. When we look back to the discussion in the House of Lords at the time the provinces of Canada were united into the confederation we find there not only an expression of the sentiments of the fathers of confederation but we find there especially an example of that greater generosity and justice which have always been displayed in the parliament of Great Britain upon every occasion that the proper treatment of a great question required it. We find there the declaration that justice shall be given to the minority, not only to the Catholic minority but to the Protestant minority as well as the case may be. In this country where development is so rapid, where it is bound to be rapid in the future and which it is the duty of every Canadian to promote as much as possible, who will deny that perhaps in one of the provinces where to-day the majority is Protestant this condition

may not be reversed before the end of the twentieth century and that in that province the majority of to-day will become the minority at the end of the century? I say with deliberation that these things are possible and I need not go out of my own province to find an illustration of the truth of what I say. It is known that in the province of New Brunswick, for different reasons which I will not undertake to explain, the population has increased only, you might say, by the increased number of the Catholic people. Owing to different reasons the young men of English parentage, perhaps having more desire to see the greatness of the world and to seek advantages abroad, have gone in immense numbers to the New England States with the result that to-day we find more of the English sons of New Brunswick in the States of New England than we find in New Brunswick. The increase in population has been going on especially amongst the French and the Irish people who have kept their children at home. This, Sir, is a good lesson to the English people that the time is past when young Canadians require to go to a foreign country to seek fortune, because in the great Northwest Territories they now have a field for their enterprise and energy. If, for the next fifty years the conditions continue the same in New Brunswick as they have been for the past fifty years, then the Catholic people will be in the majority in that province and should that come to pass, would it not be wise and generous that we the Catholic people being in the majority should extend to the Protestant minority the same generosity and the same charity that they for years extended to us? The words of Lord Carnarvon in the British House of Lords have already been quoted to this House, but I may be allowed to quote them again with the explanation that we in New Brunswick have learned to draw from them lessons of charity and lessons of justice. Let me say that if there ever was an occasion for the display of charity and justice, it is required just now in the discussion of this question. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) who has inherited the eloquent and noble sentiments of Joseph Howe, gave us the history of the settlement of religious differences in the maritime provinces; although trouble did arise in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick it was soon allayed through the good sense and liberality of the people. When men of fortitude came to govern in New Brunswick the province was again clothed in its golden mantle of conciliation, and harmony has prevailed among the people ever since. To-day we see the Acadian children and the Irish Catholic children enjoying the advantages of a splendid secular and religious education. And, Sir, the Acadian people have the same hope in the future of this country and are actuated with the same desire to share in its progress and prosperity as are our

Mr. TURGEON.