

Mr. MACDONALD. Do I understand the hon. member to say that the west resents ?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I do.

Mr. MACDONALD. I want to ask my hon. friend, upon what circumstance he bases his statement that the west resents any action by this House to-day ?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I have it upon statements made in this House ; I base it most of all upon the fact that the government could only select a Minister of the Interior in the far and distant west. They would have found out what the voice of the country was and what the view of the west was if they had opened a seat in the central or eastern portion of the new Territories, but instead of that they chose a seat where there was a large foreign element and where there was no discussion of this question and no opportunity to discuss it.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. MACDONALD. What about the man ?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. If you want to know what the verdict of the west is look at the verdict in the riding of Mountain.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. That was a verdict on this question.

Some hon. MEMBERS. No.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. The newspapers of the west, the speeches of the members from the west on this side of the House, the public meetings of the people of the west show that they do resent this and they would not be British subjects and Canadians if they did not resent it. If hon. gentlemen opposite were not afraid of the west would they not have gone to the west and discussed this question and told the people what they proposed to do ?

Mr. BUREAU. Why didn't you go up there ?

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN. I have the floor and if my facts are distasteful the hon. gentleman can answer me. This solid Quebec is so strong that it dictates to the entire Liberal party. I do not like to see that in this country, and yet this policy has been introduced at the dictates of Quebec. In doing this I am afraid they have destroyed the Liberal party. As hon. gentlemen opposite well know, the Liberal party has lost the confidence of the people of Ontario. The meetings held in Ontario, the expressions of opinion by Liberals in that province all go to indicate that fact. If the Liberal party in Ontario was based on anything, it was based on the fact that it enjoyed the confidence of the great Presbyterian vote, the great Methodist vote, the great Baptist vote in that province.

Mr. W. F. MACLEAN.

To-day those Liberals of Ontario see that their party has been shattered in this province by the dictation of the province of Quebec to the Liberal party to pass this legislation in regard to the west. There is evidence of that in the fact that this attempt has ruined the political future of the Minister of the Interior; he has had to leave the government, and his career as a public man is ended. There is an end to the career of most of the members from the west who are to-day justifying this interference with the people of the west. I see the end of the Postmaster General as a politician in this country. You can see the end of public man after public man. I do not see how they are going to square themselves or how they are going to have any future after obeying the dictates of a solid Quebec where a solid Quebec had no right to interfere. This solid Quebec, in thus interfering, as I said before, is repudiating the spirit of America, that spirit which animates the 80,000,000 people who speak English and live under English institutions on this continent. If Quebec wished to be sure in her institutions, as I take it she does, she would have rather shown her gratitude by leaving the people of the west free to exercise their rights, as she has been free to exercise her rights and enjoy them.

I want to come to another question, the question of church and state. It is a well known doctrine in the United States that there is no connection between church and state, and we in this country are supposed to have no such connection. I do not know whether hon. gentlemen deny that or not, but let me read the law on the subject. In 1851, the old province of Canada had to deal with an agitation that was then going on in regard to the connection between church and state. The Church of England had been established in the old province of Canada in the reign of King George III, and the Church of Scotland had been established in this country then or at some later time; and so in 1851 the parliament of the old province of Canada had to legislate on that subject. In 1851 it passed an Act, chapter 175, which was reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's wishes on the 30th of August, 1851, the royal assent was given by Her Majesty in Council on the 15th of May, 1852, and proclamation of the Act was made in the same year. Let me read to this House a little of this legislation of the old province of Canada bearing on the connection between church and state :

Cap. 175, Stats. Can. 1851 'An Act to repeal so much of the Act of the Parliament of Great Britain' passed in the 31st year of King George the third and chaptered 31, as relates to rectories and the presentations of incumbents to the same, and for other purposes connected with such rectories :