

ion. And, Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be able to say that it is generally recognized, not only in this House, but throughout Canada, that there is no better constitutional authority in this country to-day than the worthy leader of His Majesty's loyal opposition in this House. Never a harsh or unpleasant word has passed his lips with reference to his Roman Catholic fellow-citizens or in reference to their schools. He stands on the rock of the constitution, and has surrounded it with such complete and masterly arguments that the volleys fired by this government only tend to make the rock on which he has builded shine out more clearly.

Then let us give these provinces home rule in the matter of education and lands. The inhabitants of these provinces are responsible men and women—you can trust them. The Finance Minister said he could trust the people of Nova Scotia with reference to separate schools. Why can not he trust the people of these Northwest provinces? This parliament has no mandate from the people to legislate for any denomination. The state should stand above and beyond that. We may all live to see the bulk of the population in Canada west of Winnipeg. Then, don't let us hamper the people of that growing country, or throttle their growth and development. The Northwest Territories have been up to this time in the position of wards of the nation; hence the British North America Act separate school clause does not apply to them. They have had to abide by the regulations laid down for them by the Dominion government, having no relation to the British North America Act. When the Northwest Territories Act was passed, the people of that country had no say in the matter; they had to obey the regulations made for them by this government. But when they arrived at the dignity of provinces, then they came from under the laws that applied to them as territories. When they are made provinces they should be given a free hand to make laws under the constitution, but this government are not allowing them this right.

It has also been argued by the member for North Ontario (Mr. Grant) that because the Territories carried out a law, in the making of which they had no voice re the law of 1875, this fact should be an argument to allow the federal government to pass an unconstitutional law, which aims at coercing the provinces into doing as their own Act, as independent provinces, what they were forced to do by the Act dictated to them by the Dominion government. Many of these facts have been before the House a number of times and may sound trite, but in spite of their triteness they need to be reiterated over and over again, so that this government may realize that they are not legislating for the best interests of the people of Canada when they are forcing upon the new provinces the educational

clauses of this Bill. One year after confederation the west was ours. Nineteen years later the great railway that opened up the country and is to a great extent responsible for its development, was built. The prosperity of this country to-day is largely due to the opening up of that country by the Conservative party in building the Canadian Pacific Railway. Another nineteen years and what were formerly wastes occupied by Indians and buffalo are ripe for the provincial status. We are proud of the men who laboured for Canada's march to the west. Those who bore the burden and faced the struggle of bygone years, are repaid by the present enterprise and national greatness that is springing up in that country. Don't let us hamper its growth, don't let us hinder its progress; rather let us strengthen the tie that binds the east and the west, and Canada will go forward with leaps and bounds, to become the mighty nation she is intended to become.

There are many of the government members who know in their hearts that they are doing wrong by supporting this Bill and forcing it upon the new provinces. They know they are voting against the wishes of a majority of their constituents, and they have not the manly courage to vote to defeat this Bill, when they know it is their duty to so vote. They look ahead praying that something may turn up before four years rolls by, that may relieve them from facing an angry and determined people. The party whip is held over them so they crouch behind the shattered rock. Is it strange that we should question the change of front of some of these men? We are led to believe that they are looking to the rewards of the faithful. If the members from the west are supporting this measure, let us see what is dangling before them. Two lieutenant governorships—a complete judicial outfit, four new senators, and a mass of minor offices which are to be filled by the first cabinet which the first governor will select. There are plums innumerable in this proposition, and not many to enjoy them from this House, so there is a balm for wounded feeling in this matter for those who vote with the government. Hon. gentlemen opposite will no doubt come in and vote like machines, they remind me of those gentlemen who go out as tourists with Mr. Cook, they enjoy great security, because they are personally conducted.

Let me again say to the men who are fighting this Bill, our duty is plain. The government have lost every fort of vantage. They are shivering for fear of what the next day will bring them. They are striving to throttle the west, which to-day is helpless. Let us make the walls of this old Chamber ring as they have never rung before, and let the echoes ring throughout Canada until an indignant people demand