

presently. I want to show that the arguments are not based on what is true. To make a comparison which is of any value there must be some common basis for it. The hon. gentleman from Sarnia says that there is no intention to prevent the people in this country speaking French, but if every day you encroach upon the rights of the minority who can predict how far those encroachments may go? If we accede to this to-day, we give you an excuse for going further to-morrow. Manitoba has recently legislated in this same direction. If we assent to this proviso it will give the Government of the day power to deal with the legislation of the Manitoba Legislature in the same way as they are now dealing with the question in the North-West. It is the same thing—the same Territories—only Manitoba has been erected into a Province. That, however, does not change the power of the Government, so that in dealing with this matter, which is said to be so very trifling, we are empowering the Government to give effect to a law of Manitoba which is not constitutional to-day. We will next be asked to amend the constitutional law, and recognize the right of the Manitoba Legislature to abolish the use of the French language in that Province. In such an important matter as this we should look at the consequences that are likely to ensue from what we are asked to do. If this proviso did not lead to other and more serious consequences, I would say that there was nothing extraordinary about it, because the population in the Territories is yet very small. But the principle is the same, and I should not be surprised, if we accede to these amendments to-day, to find in the near future that there will be other and more serious encroachments upon our rights. The hon. gentleman from Halifax spoke of his Province. If England had done with Lower Canada as it did with Acadia—banish all the French people in one night—they could have established English in Lower Canada forever; and we, like the poor Acadians, coming back a century later, would have to adapt ourselves to the conditions then existing. But England did not dare to do that with Lower Canada. The French population have remained there all this time, and have taken good care, even when England oppressed them, to conduct themselves in such a manner that their rights would be acknow-

ledged, as they have been by England. Since they have been thus recognized, we want them to be maintained throughout this Dominion. Those who know anything about the history of this continent are aware that the whole of North America, except a small part of it, belonged to France at one time; the cession of the French territories to England was, therefore, the cession of the greater part of the continent. So that even in that far western country we have always possessed rights which I claim should not be taken from us. We have been true to the British flag. We have done our part. Even when we were ill-treated, we fought for England and refused to join the States. There is not a member of this House that is ignorant of those facts. Having done our duty as loyal citizens, are we to be rewarded by being deprived of our rights, and are we to be asked to accede to such a proposition? No; that cannot be done by any man who has a heart in his bosom. I know that some have done it: I suppose they were misled. If they had known our history they would have done better. Holding those views, I cannot accept the amendment. I protest against it, and I hope that the stand which I have taken will arouse my compatriots, who seem to be less patriotic than their fathers were half a century ago. They are asleep now, but perhaps at the next election they will be awakened to the fact that they have neglected their duty. If they are once aroused I have no doubt that they will now, near the close of the nineteenth century, follow the example of those who fought for the preservation of the rights which we now enjoy.

HON. MR. DEVER—I am exceedingly sorry to hear such language from a member of this House, because it will do a great deal of harm. If Canada is ever to become a great country we must discourage such feelings. Why the hon. gentleman brings up the question of the conquest of the French I cannot conceive, except it is to show the weakness of the French and the strength of the English. No man in this House would go further than I would to sustain our French fellow citizens in their rights. In fact, I would not hold a seat in this House if I thought that they would be insulted by the Senate. But there is no such feeling in this House. On the