

easy to set fire to this very inflammable piece of timber, a race agitation, and take that agitation as a means to achieve success; but I must say that if there is a glow for the ambition of a public man, it should not be a glow coming from the fires of prejudice and passion which he himself has kindled. The hon. gentleman has taken charge of a measure which the people of the North-West would have confided to any of the members representing them here if a real grievance had existed. Who has moved him to introduce this Bill? Has he done it of his own motion or had he a mandate for doing it? He went up to the North-West on a mission, and he has accomplished it; but I hope and believe that he will accomplish nothing by his measure. This question should have been settled quietly among the people of the North-West as a local question, to be determined between them and the Federal Government, from whom the legislative power of the territories emanates. But the promoters of this measure do not think of making it a local question. Leave the question to the people to settle, and you may be sure that probably in two years hence there will be nothing left of the little fire which has been raised by the hon. member for North Simcoe. Has not the North-West disinterested members enough in this House to take charge of such a measure? Is it not an insult to them that a member from an eastern Province should take upon himself to put it forward and advocate it? It shall not pass here, because on every side of the House people are alarmed, if not disgusted, by the way in which it has been taken up and agitated. We might very well agree among ourselves to leave to the North-West Legislature the settlement of this question. We would say to them: You have not been elected in the North West to settle that question; it relates to one of the organic articles of the constitution of those Territories, which only the Parliament of Canada has a right to change; but we will be a paternal Parliament to you, and we will say to you, consult the people, and let the people of the North-West say whether there is any use of your speaking French when you sit around the table of the Legislature. The elections would come, and after those elections they may come back and say: If we are to have a useful representation in that assembly, if we are to have a population in those Territories, who will live harmoniously with their neighbors, we must not repeat the mistake of hurting the feelings of those with whom we are in partnership for the building up of this country. I say that to try to prevent those people publishing their laws in the language of the population, either in the French language or the English, would be an atrocity, a cruel measure, and a measure which would not induce immigrants or settlers to go into that country. There is one thing which I feel bound to say to correct a wrong impression, unjust to the hon. gentleman. My hon. friend from North Simcoe has been taken to task as being a Tory. I do not attach much importance to that little digression of my hon. friend, the leader of the Opposition. That is an eye-catching color which he puts in his political paintings when before an election audience; the "Tory" is always brought into the back ground so as to bring out in greater contrast the great display of the Liberal principles which it is the hon. gentleman's wont to picture to his hearers. But in the subject under discussion there should be no question of party politics. The

right hon. the leader of the Government answered my hon. friend from Quebec East (Mr. Laurier), by showing that the Tories have been at times the best protectors of our French Canadian nationality in this country. But in calling this Bill a Tory measure, my hon. friend wanted to make out that it was an arbitrary, a retrograde measure.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It was inflammatory.

Mr. CHA PLEAU. No, it was that "or-a-tory" of my hon. friend that brought it out. My hon. friend wished to give a political meaning to this discussion. It has none, and I think it is but just to those who, on other occasions, have voted with the hon. member for North Simcoe, to say that the hon. gentleman himself had the courage—and it is not courage he wants—to say that on this occasion he had separated himself entirely from the Conservative party. My hon. friend, the leader of the Opposition, calls all the Conservatives Tories; and I know that whatever denial we may give to the expression, he is bound to call us Tories. If he enjoys in calling us by that name, let him be happy. The hon. member for North Simcoe has in this question completely disassociated himself from his party; he has declared that on this question he is not in harmony with his party, but he declared, and had a right to do so, that upon other questions he would follow those whom he had always followed, and would continue to vote as a conservative on such matters as, for instance, the National Policy. It would not be right to close the Conservative party against the hon. member for North Simcoe and those who hold his views. This Bill which he has introduced has nothing to do with that party; it is his Bill of his own, and I hope, before the debate is over, he will see that it is greatly restricted in his following. The hon. member for West Durham argued that the Federal Government should keep, in a certain measure at least, a portion of the power over the Territories. True, we have granted to the Territories a constitution; we have given them legislative power to some extent; but as we still have the administration of the Territories in our hands and to protect those whom we are inviting to come and settle there, this Government should keep a certain control over these Territories. We are bound to do that, as we are bound to give to the French population a free and easy access to the judicial tribunals we have established there. I do not believe that there are many in this House disposed to say that they are at heart in favor of the measure proposed. Its preamble is a provocation and a just cause of irritation to a large section of our people, and the principle of the Bill and its practical effect, if carried into a conclusion, would work injustice and bad feeling in the old Provinces as well as in the North-West Territories. There are amongst those who support the measure of the hon. member for North Simcoe men who, if they do not call themselves Equal Rights advocates, are Imperial Federalists. Many of them pose as the advocates of what they deem to be the grand and the loyal policy of Imperial Federation. Let me ask them how they expect to help on their cause by this unfair, unseemly, this persecuting agitation. The British Empire is composed of a greater variety of nations and creeds than was the Roman Empire. Do the Imperial Federalists think they are going to help