

largely Protestant constituencies convinced him that his confidence was not misplaced. He did not change his views when he heard the hon. member for Montreal West declare his intention to support the Government motion. The hon. gentleman could not be blamed for changing his lived they were about half of the population. They had carried on the discussions on this question without quarreling or any great unpleasantness, and for three years he had been able to prevent the Act coming into operation in his country. However, ultimately the school law was forced upon them, and their separate school went down. What was his position then? He believed in separate schools, and he had children he wished to be educated. He sent his son to a Catholic institution at a distance, and one daughter to a convent, but he did not feel that his means would justify his sending all his family abroad; and having a school established under the law within easy reach, and which was presided over by a gentleman of high character, he thought it was better to send the rest of his children there than have them go without education. Of the two evils he choose this course, and he felt he did right, and he would do the same thing again under the same circumstances. But that could not be taken as an approval by him of the school law. He wished to ask the supporters of the Government what would be the result supposing the means now proposed should fail to produce the desired result. For his part he had very little faith in it. He believed HER MAJESTY'S advisers would regard this step as a desire on the part of this House to shirk a difficult question, and would therefore take no action in the matter. If he could have an opportunity of voting for the amendment of which the hon. member for Joliette had given notice he would do so. In the meantime he would vote against both amendments before the House. The course proposed might do for the present, but it would not he believed effect a permanent settlement. He held that the Government should have taken up this question as they did with the North-West question. With reference to this latter question, although he favored a complete amnesty he voted for the Government proposition, because he felt the Government had come half way; and he was

*Mr. Costigan.*

sorry the Government had not taken a similar stand with reference to this question as there was as much necessity for doing something to promote peace and harmony in New Brunswick as there was in the North-West.

Mr. DEVLIN desired to offer an explanation in reply to the remarks of the hon. member for Victoria, who had made a most unjustifiable and unwarrantable attack upon him. That hon. gentleman knew the deep interest he had taken in the question before the House. He knew that he (Mr. DEVLIN) left Montreal under the most embarrassing circumstances, on receiving a telegram from the hon. member for Victoria to come up to take part in this discussion. That hon. gentleman had also been in communication with the members for Richmond, Halifax, Antigonish, Kings and Prince Edward Island. He would state to the House, in order to show how uncalled for this attack was, for he did not know the hon. member's motives, that the Irish Catholic members had met repeatedly to endeavor to arrive at a solution of this matter so as to be in agreement with the majority of the House, and record a vote which would really conduce to the interests of Catholics in New Brunswick. The member for Victoria was invited to join in the discussion and did so, and he was therefore entirely in the confidence of every Irish Catholic member. He desired to state to the House that he had the authority and advice of His Lordship the Bishop of New Brunswick for the course he had taken, and he regarded His Lordship as a higher authority than the member for Victoria, much as he respected the great ability he had displayed in the cause of Catholic education. He did not think, therefore, he was fairly open to the charge of inconsistency which the hon. gentleman had thought proper to hurl against him so recklessly when he simply declared in the House to-night that he would support a measure which he conceived, after discussion of the whole case, to be best calculated to attain the object which every honest-minded man would desire to see accomplished. He would state further, and he appealed to hon. gentlemen whose constituencies he had named, to correct him if he were in error, that it was expected that the hon. member for Victoria would withdraw his resolution, and that this was the under-