

do the same. My conservative instincts would prevent me from endorsing a proposition, which would be, in my estimation, unfair, unjust, demagogic in its tendencies as is the measure advocated by my hon. friend.

Mr. CHARLTON. I rise to a question of order. An expression was used by the hon. Minister, for which my hon. friend on my right (Sir Richard Cartwright) was ruled out of order on a former occasion. I do not know if it is proper that it should be allowed to be used on one side of the House and not on the other.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I am ready to withdraw it for the hon. gentleman, although I must say I was not thinking of him at the time.

Mr. McCARTHY. He was addressing it with regard to me, and I prefer that the word should not be withdrawn.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. I was referring to the member for North Simcoe when the member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) called me to order, and I was calling this measure of the member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) a revolutionary measure, a demagogic measure and I do not think the expression unparliamentary. I say, that if such a measure were proposed in the Province of Quebec, even though the English race occupied only the same position with regard to the French as the French do with regard to the English in the North-West Territories, I would not say "no" to such a proposition. I would decide that no offensive pre-eminence should be given to the majority in a country where both races should be united. I ask myself what is the object to be gained by the measure proposed by my hon. friend? Is it to make the members of the Legislature of the North-West speak English? That cannot be the object, because they all speak English now, and I understand there is not a single elected man who is French. Is it his object to prevent the votes and deliberations of the North-West Assembly being printed in French? That cannot be, for I believe they are, in fact, only printed in the English language now, for the obvious reason that the members are all English.

Mr. DAVIN. They never have been printed in French.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. My hon. friend tells me, as a matter of fact, they never have been printed in French, and there is, therefore, no reason to make a law that they shall not be printed in that language. In the Privy Council at Ottawa our proceedings are all in English, and there is no necessity for having them printed in French, not by law, but for the mere convenience of the case, and nobody complains. So it would be in the North-West Assembly. But, as regards the promulgation of the laws, I appeal to the hon. member for Simcoe if it is not necessary that a large portion of that population, who understands only the French language, are entitled to know what laws they should obey and to have them printed in their own language? The French Canadians can lay claim to the title of being the first settlers of that country, and there is some value in that title. That title has been acknowledged to the

Indians, even by the American Government, at a time when their policy towards the Indians was I will not say barbarous—but most severe, and in the North-West the first settlers were French, and the Hudson Bay Company respected their language and their customs. Why should we not treat them as well as they were treated when there was no regular government in those Territories? I say that if the measure of my hon. friend became law, a large portion of the population would be without knowledge of the laws they are supposed to obey. And as the Legislature has in its hands the whole of the municipal government of the country, the injustice would be more cruel. If he had only said: it is useless that the Legislature of the North-West should have French in their proceedings, the answer would be the sentimental one that they have, as an important minority composed of the first settlers of the land, a right to speak French in that Legislature. But against that I would have said: Wait for the sub-division of the country, when there will likely be three or four French-speaking members elected to that body; then we would not have to pass Draconian laws here to prevent them having French, because they would have it. The English-speaking people of the North-West would be as courteous to them as the French-speaking majority in the Province of Quebec have been to the English-speaking minority in that Province; and we know very well that if there were French members in the North-West Council it would be allowed to them to speak French. There will soon be a very large German immigration into that country—and I hope there will be, the Germans make very good settlers—and suppose three or four members elected for the Legislature were German; if they wanted to speak German, they would have a right to do so. Sir, if you do not respect the covenants which have been entered into between the two important races in the Dominion, to the extent of permitting the laws of the land to be published in the language of the minority, you are committing a cruel injustice, and retarding the progress of the country. Why Sir, we spend thousands of dollars every year to publish pamphlets for distribution in France, Switzerland, Alsace-Lorraine and elsewhere—for what purpose? To bring French immigration to Canada, to say to those people that when they arrive here they will find the ordinances of the country and many of those ordinances refer mainly to local interests and objects—and its laws printed in their own language. To deprive them of this privilege would be a gross injustice. But my hon. friend knew this very well; he knew that if he could prevent the promulgation and publication of the laws and ordinances of the North-West in French, he would prevent French immigration into that country. He knew it, and he did it with that object in view; he had the courage to acknowledge it. I am sorry to say that the Equal Righters who are acting with the hon. member for North Simcoe are to blame if a war of races is the result of their agitation; but I hope I am not mistaken in believing that many hon. gentlemen, whose names have been connected with those of the hon. member for North Simcoe and the hon. member for North Norfolk, do not carry their feelings to that extent. I know that amongst them there are men who do not wish anything of that kind to happen. It is very

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