

extending the constitution beyond its legitimate limits. Manitoba came into the government with a constitution which is plain to be read. The minority were protected by certain clauses have been absolutely swept away, and when we come to discover the true causes that have created this chaos in the government, we shall find that it was due to a desire not to carry out the policy that was, I think, so honestly and earnestly advocated by the leader of the government. I do not propose to follow this question any further than to assure the hon. gentleman that we all sympathize with him in the unfair and ungenerous attack that has been made upon him. As I said before, I scarcely think he believes the statement made by Mr. Foster. In the face of the evidences that have been given from time to time by members of the council who have expressed their unbounded confidence, not only in his ability, but in his industry and his popularity with the party, I think that it is impossible for us to believe as true the reasons given in the paper read in the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. MASSON—Will the hon. member allow me to ask him what would be the opinion of the opposition if a remedial bill were introduced, because he knows that the government, if returned, must bring in remedial legislation?

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—I give my honest conviction. I am speaking for myself, and not the party.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—The hon. leader of the opposition made some remarks, after referring to the resignations of the ministers and the opposition to the Prime Minister, upon which I wish to say a few words. I notice that my hon. friend is not by any means so strong on the question of remedial legislation, judging from the few remarks we have heard from him this evening, as he has been on two previous occasions when I had the honour of hearing him speak on this question on the floor of this House. The hon. member begins to be timid. He says now that it is utterly impossible, utterly hopeless to get a remedy for the minority in Manitoba. Is it because my hon. friend, thinks he is in sight of the treasury benches, that he is beginning to trim, and put himself in a different position from that

which he occupied in regard to this great and important question? It is not proper, I think, for the hon. gentleman who leads the opposition to censure in this House, as he has done, the management of this question since it had its inception some six years ago. He began by saying that instead of dealing with it in a diplomatic way, in a proper way, that the question was sent to the courts, and in that way the evil has gone on festering, up to the present moment. Let me ask the leader of the opposition, who was it that first suggested that this great question should be sent to the courts of the country? Was it Sir John Macdonald who was at that time Prime Minister that made the suggestion in the House of Commons? It was not. Was it not the actual leader—at least one of the greatest men in the great liberal party of Canada at that time—(Mr. Blake) who made that famous speech, upon this question, a few weeks after the passage of the Manitoba School Act, in which he suggested a reference of the case to the courts of the country, winding up by moving a resolution, which was accepted unanimously by the House of Common, in favour of that course? I say, therefore, it is useless for the leader of the opposition at this stage to turn round and throw blame and censure upon the leaders of the Liberal Conservative party, because the question was sent to the courts at that time on the suggestion of Mr. Blake.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Mr. Blake was not in Parliament when this question came up. His speech was made in 1884.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—My hon. friend is entirely wrong, and I may be thought to be somewhat presumptuous in making such a remark as that in regard to a statement of an experienced politician like my hon. friend; but I speak of the year 1890, when the Manitoba School Act was passed. Mr. Blake was in parliament then, and before the question reached the federal government for the purpose of exercising disallowance, Mr. Blake made his speech in which he condemned disallowance or an attempt to deal with it in that way at all, and added that he spoke for the liberal party. It was then that he submitted his famous resolution in favour of sending it to the courts. Such a resolution was not submitted in this branch of parliament; so that we have not my