

interminable contest, it was urged on my behalf that the prospective Minister of Finance was the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright) and from past experience it was urged that the policy that had built up the city of Montreal and had so largely contributed to the aggrandisement and prosperity of my own constituency would be abandoned. Well, Sir, I have a distinct recollection that on many occasions it was publicly stated by my adversaries that there was no such danger. It was stated that the position of Minister of Finance would not be occupied by the hon. member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright), but that another position was reserved to him to which his high abilities undoubtedly entitle him, that he was going to the United States, and that he would there negotiate a treaty which would afford a magnificent market for the agricultural classes of my constituency. But, Sir, what have we to-day? I heard yesterday the hon. member declare that there were hundreds of items in the tariff upon which he and his colleagues intended to lay hands. That statement will go forth side by side with the continued silence of the leader of the House, and I claim that that is not fair to my constituents, that it is not carrying out the pledges which were given at the time of the election. In view, therefore, of the circumstances which I have just indicated, it seems only right that I should not lose the opportunity which is afforded to me of asking the leader of this House, on behalf of the classes whom I represent, to state to us, categorically, that which he ought to be in a position to state, to wit, what his fiscal policy is, and what principles will guide him in the task which he is about to enter upon. No more than that will I ask, and it seems to me that not only those whom I represent, but the country at large, are entitled to some clear statement upon that subject. Now, Sir, there was another question extensively debated during the campaign which terminated on the 23rd June last, I refer to the Manitoba school question. I do not wish to take up the time of this House at any length upon that question, because I believe that it is right that, at the present juncture the hon. leader of this House should have an opportunity of settling that question, as he has promised to do. I will, however, say this, that during the election we were told that the measure which we were defending before the people of this country was totally inadequate and unsuitable, we were told that it afforded no adequate relief to the minority whose defense we had taken up; we were told, moreover, in the province of Quebec, and more particularly in my own constituency, that as soon as the elections were over, and that a strong hand would have been given to the leader of this House, a commission would issue to make a full and complete examination into the

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grievances from which the minority were suffering. That commission was to be addressed to the then leader of the Ontario government, who was extolled to us as a man who would, in the shortest possible space of time, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, see that every one of the grievances of that minority should be righted, and that they should obtain complete redress. In all, or nearly all, the constituencies of that province, candidates on both sides pledged themselves that if redress upon some terms or other was not immediately afforded, then unquestionably a Remedial Bill would be passed. It was urged by those who opposed us that the Remedial Bill which they would introduce would go a great deal further and be much more complete than the one which had been accepted as sufficient by the parties aggrieved. Now, what do we find to-day? That commission has not been issued, no inquiry into those grievances is set a-foot. There is another commission which has been withheld, and it seems to me that as there has been a Remedial Bill, that withheld commission may properly be called a curative commission, because it unquestionably possesses strong medicinal properties, judging from the going and coming which has resulted from the withholding of that commission up to the present moment. Be that as it may, I will say frankly that I belong to those who were of the opinion that the minority had a grievance, that that grievance had been sufficiently set forth, that we were sufficiently enlightened upon that grievance, not only by the discussion which had taken place, but by the judgment of the Privy Council, and that under the circumstances, with which most of the members of this House are familiar, there was no other possible means of redress, there was no other duty incumbent upon us, but the passage of that Bill. As I have already stated, I am anxious that the leader of this House should have a fair opportunity of obtaining, by means which are best known to himself, that redress which I deem the minority is entitled to, and which I trust they will obtain before long.

A few words more and I am done. It has been stated that the change which took place in my native province was due solely to a race cry. It seems to me, for I have had occasion to observe and study the state of public opinion in that province, that that is not a fair statement. There were other causes operating which resulted in the change of public opinion that occurred; and I am anxious, as being deeply attached not only to that province, but to the people who inhabit it, that it should not go abroad that the people of Quebec, having to choose purely and simply between a constitutional redress which was due to a minority in another province and the opportunity to place one of their own people in power, abandon-