

In those who preside over them as bishops and archbishops, and who may, therefore, be held to represent the views of the people themselves. In order to show the House, in an unmistakable manner, that the minority are satisfied, I propose to read a message received by myself, and a similar one was sent to the Prime Minister yesterday, by the Archbishop of St. Boniface, from Montreal, in which he says:

In the name of the Catholic minority of Manitoba that I represent officially, I ask the House of Commons to pass the whole remedial Act as it is now amended. It will be satisfactory to the said Catholic minority, that will consider it as a substantial, workable and final settlement of the school question according to the constitution.

(Signed) EDOUARD LANGEVIN.

I give that as a complete answer to any hon. gentleman who says this Bill is worthless, that it will not give satisfaction to the minority. After this approval of the Bill by a gentleman holding so high a position as His Grace the Archbishop, who speaks on behalf of the Manitoba minority, certainly no person can any longer say that this measure will not satisfy their claim. I deeply regret that the necessary measure was not passed by the government of Manitoba. It would be infinitely more satisfactory, and no effort has been spared by this Government to secure a settlement by the government of Manitoba. I do not hesitate to say that I believe if this Bill were put on the statute-book, it would terminate the difficulty, for I believe the Manitoba government would then be in a position to say to the people of that province who have become excited upon this subject—and I believe that is one of the difficulties of the Manitoba government—they would then be able to say to the people: Either we must meet the claims of this minority by our own legislation, or we must have under the constitution of the country a divided authority; and that is certainly not desirable. I believe if this Bill were placed upon the statute-book, this Government would probably never find it necessary to carry out any of its provisions, because they would be promptly adopted by the government of Manitoba in order to prevent the divided authority I have mentioned; and the hands of the local government would be enormously strengthened by putting this Bill on the statute-book. Now, I wish to say a word about the obstruction of this measure. Who is obstructing?

Mr. WELSH. Do you want to coerce us by keeping us here all night and all day? You are the men who are obstructing.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. I will tell my hon. friend, if he will allow me to call him so, that nobody is more unwilling to keep him here than I am. It has been a case of necessity, not of choice. We have felt bound

to exhaust every possible means for the purpose of carrying a Bill that we believe to be only of the greatest importance that it should become law, but we believe it to be of the most vital importance that it should become law this session. The session has been called specially for the purpose of dealing with this measure, the country expected it of us, and we have felt it our duty to exhaust every means to pass it. But I want to put this question to hon. gentlemen opposite. Who is it that is obstructing this Bill? Is it the representatives in this House of the two millions of Roman Catholics? I do not believe that there is one representative among those who represent the two millions of Roman Catholics in Canada in this House, who will get up and say: I am prepared to obstruct this Bill and prevent its becoming law. Then I say if you have at the back of this Bill the Government of the Dominion, composed of both Catholics and Protestants, if you have supporting them a large number of members representing both Protestants and Roman Catholics, if you have in favour of the Bill the representatives of the two millions of Roman Catholics in this country to-day, why should it be obstructed? Sir, it is not too late yet. The Bill has been prepared with the utmost care by the law officers of the Crown.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Care!

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. Well, I do not suppose it would be in the power of human ingenuity to frame a Bill in which lawyers could not find flaws from Monday morning till Saturday night. But because they can do so, I do not hold that to be evidence that the Bill is imperfect. I say the clauses have been torn to pieces and changed and modified by hon. gentlemen opposite, in their desire, not to perfect the measure, but to mar it. I believe that the Bill as submitted to this House would have been perfectly satisfactory to the House. The law officers of the Crown had given it careful attention; and a gentleman of high standing in this country and great legal talent, Mr. Ewart, who has devoted, I may say, years of his life to the study of this question, has been devoting his great powers and his great legal talents to this measure for a long period. He has had the opportunity of crossing swords with another hon. gentleman of great legal talent, the hon. member for North Simcoe. It is said that iron sharpens iron, so I say that after this conflict of opinion on this question in all its phases, this Bill meets with the approval of the counsel retained by the minority in Manitoba. It also meets with the approval of the Minister of Justice and of the committee of the Dominion Government, composed of both Catholics and Protestants, who had charge of this Bill. As a layman, I say I would have been quite willing to take it as it stood;