

HON. MR. McMILLAN—I regret very much, though a co-religionist of the hon. gentlemen who have just spoken, that I have to take an entirely different view of the question before the House. It is not for us to consider whether this organization is required in Canada or not; it is for us to consider whether the gentlemen who are seeking incorporation at our hands are entitled to the rights which other citizens in the Dominion of Canada have hitherto had. They, no doubt, see some good in the society. They, no doubt, understand what they are entering upon when they become members of this society, and it is under such circumstances we are to judge them here, and not from our standpoint as Roman Catholics, who are supposed to be opposed to them. If I thought this Bill would give Orangemen the right to insult or harm the Church of which I am a member I would oppose it, for I hold my Church as dear as anyone; but the object of the Bill, as I understand it, is simply to enable the society that already exists to hold lands, and to carry out certain benevolent objects. I do not think that the speeches of my hon. friends who have preceded me have done much towards creating harmony or good feeling amongst the people of this country. I think it is really distressing to hon. gentlemen who take a calm, honest and disinterested view of this question to listen to a history of the society of half a century ago. I have read a great deal of its history myself, and I must confess that, perhaps, as a Catholic, and belonging to a different nationality, I cannot appreciate it to the same extent that my hon. friends, whose ancestors, or who, perhaps, themselves were born in the country where this organization had its birthplace. But, after all, I judge of that organization as I find it here. Some of the best men I have ever met were Orangemen. I have met them socially; I have met them professionally; I have done business with them, and I have never known that they were made of different clay from my co-religionists. Why then should I deprive them of a right that other citizens have obtained and are now seeking in this House? This is not the first society to whom we have granted a charter of this kind. Last year we granted an Act of incorporation to the Independent Order of Foresters, which was almost word for word the same as this Act—and it goes

even a little further, for it gives them power to invest their funds and to become almost a loan company. Now, when we granted a charter to the Foresters, why should we deprive the Orangemen of the same privilege? Is it because they have a history that appears black in the eyes of Irish Catholics? I should think that the only way to wipe out differences of that kind which have hitherto existed would be to meet them with the right hand of fellowship, and say, as Catholics and as friends, we will grant you what you want, and by so doing deprive you of your grievance. I did not intend to say a word on this question, but I do not believe that the speeches which have been made by my hon. friends, which were certainly of a very recriminatory character, have done their side of the question any good, nor do I think that they have changed the opinion of any hon. gentleman present. I am thoroughly satisfied that I, belonging to the same religion as my hon. friends from Ottawa and Toronto, have at my back just as many of the hierarchy of this Dominion as they have, for they want no struggles, they want no feuds, and no dissensions of any kind. I may remind my hon. friends that when the Roman Catholics were asking favors in the Legislature of Canada the Orangemen were their best friends. Now, I say it is time for us to return the good they have done to us in times gone by. Out of fourteen Orangemen in the Legislature of Canada, when we asked for the separate school system, thirteen of them voted for it. They helped us to incorporate the Jesuit College in Montreal, and other Catholic institutes; yet, when they come before the House for a charter we are asked to deprive them of the common rights of citizenship. With a view to create peace, order, harmony and good fellowship in this country, and to restore that union that we ought to have to make the Dominion of Canada a country worth living in, a country where no such distinctions are known, the sooner we meet each other upon common ground and give to others what we demand for ourselves the better for the future welfare of this Dominion.

HON. MR. POWER—I do not take exactly the same view of this question as any of the hon. gentlemen who have preceded me, and although there has been, perhaps, enough said about this