

rights of the minority in Manitoba has been used as the basis of a party war cry, I think has been illustrated during the last few days in a very clear and emphatic way. We have had the representatives of the party which went to the country, using as their principal cry "Justice to the oppressed Catholic French minority of Manitoba"—we have had the people who represented that same party during the two by-elections which have recently taken place, adopting a totally different line, and instead of advocating the rights of the French Catholics of Manitoba, condemning French domination and condemning the coercion of the English speaking people of Manitoba. That, I think, illustrates the fact and is satisfactory evidence to any reasonable man, that although there may have been many gentlemen who were sincere, still a great many prominent members of the party now in opposition were not sincere; they were actuated, not by any special affection for the oppressed Metis, but were actuated by a strong desire to see their party returned again to power. I might say something more, hon. gentlemen, but I do not propose to detain the House many moments longer. It has been usual in speeches from the Throne, that the concluding sentences should commend to the wisdom of parliament, the measures which are referred to in the speech. I suppose it is because there is really no measure referred to in the speech—that is, no measure requiring very much discussion or controversy—that we do not find that expression in the present speech; but there is one thing which I think I may say to His Excellency, through his advisers here, with respect to the attitude of the Senate: We all know that the Senate is occasionally maligned, and when the question of abolishing or reforming the Senate has been considered, one of the reasons given why either total abolition or a radical change was necessary, was that if a Liberal government came into power they would be completely thwarted and their hands tied by the opposition in the Senate. It has been assumed that the majority in the Senate would defeat measures coming up from the other chamber, simply because they were measures proposed by a Liberal Government. Now I think, hon. gentlemen, that on behalf of my colleagues in the Senate I can assure the government that their fears, if they share such fears, are unfounded. In the first place, the members

of this House as a rule are pretty reasonable men, and they know the position in which the government are placed, that they are supported by only a very small minority in this House, and they know the government business has to be got through, and they will not, I believe, offer any factious or unreasonable opposition to the measures of the government. When the Liberal party were in power in Canada from 1874 to 1878, the Conservative majority in this House, made themselves very active on committees and I think perhaps made themselves unduly active with respect to certain matters which in the light of subsequent events appear very small—the Neebing Hotel for instance and other things of that sort. There was a great deal of noise made about those little things, and we have kept very quiet since when things a thousand times worse have been done than anything that was done in connection with the Neebing Hotel or the Fort Frances Lock. Still the Senate did not give what could be described as a factious opposition to the legislation of the administration of Mr. Mackenzie. There were, I think, only two measures of that government defeated in this Chamber and in one instance at any rate, the defeat was due partly to the fact that one or two senators who habitually supported that government voted against the measure. I speak of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Bill. I have sufficient confidence in the majority of this House to believe that they will deal with the present government very much as they did with the Mackenzie administration. I hope so, for the credit of the House, and for the interests of the country. Of course, it cannot be expected that this House will treat a Conservative government and a Liberal government in the same way. A man naturally leans towards his own friends, and this House has agreed to measures coming from the Conservative government which it never would have accepted from a Liberal government; but I believe that His Excellency can be assured that good measures, coming from the government, will be passed by this House; and I think I can assure this House that the government will introduce none but good measures, so there is not likely to be any conflict between the government and this House. I may call the attention of hon. gentlemen to the fact that the language of this address is different from what we have usually adopted