

MR. DUNKIN concurred in the hon. member's opinion respecting the Superintendent of Education. He could bear testimony to his fairness after having had more business intercourse with him than perhaps any other member of the House. He had never lent himself to complaints against him; had never had occasion to do so. But there was a very general and material wish that in a new political existence some additional safeguard should be given the English speaking and Protestant inhabitants of Lower Canada, and that in the Department there should be some one speaking their language and familiar with their needs to represent and act for them; and they had pledges from the Government that this would be so. He did not now refer to any secret written pledges to which he never was a party, but Mr. Cartier had, when questioned, made a declaration to the House which induced a belief that the demands of Protestants in this respect would be satisfied. He believed that the pledge was honestly given, and that an honest attempt had been made to fulfil it. He only regretted that such a pressure had been brought to bear on the Government as to prevent its fulfilment by carrying through Parliament a measure which had been submitted. Personally he had not so great an apprehension of danger in future as some others entertained. He hoped they should get on in spite of the difficulties which beset their course in Confederation.

HON. MR. DORION was very glad when the member for Compton declared they had no fear of tyranny or injustice of the French Canadian majority under Confederation. They had no reason to fear. He regretted the member for Compton had not sooner formed or acted on that opinion before he had exacted pledges from the Finance Minister forcing on the Government a bill which could not be otherwise regarded than as an insult to the majority of the people of Lower Canada. After exacting a written pledge from the Finance Minister, and a reiteration in the House by the Attorney General, it was a little too late for the member for Compton to profess confidence in the Lower Canada majority. Two points in the bill submitted were highly objectionable—one, the appropriation of \$300,000 per annum without the right of the local Parliament to revise it, and the second, setting up another superintendent in the department and authorizing another Council. It was the greatest mistake, even in their own interest, to grant to the minority in either Province exceptional privileges, which should excite the prejudice and hostility of the majority, and divide two populations into two hostile camps. Much better that both minorities should trust for justice to the majorities. He was opposed to the Lower Canada bill, but if that was forced on he should most assuredly have insisted, with all the influence he could bring to bear, that similar clauses for the minority of Upper Canada should have been passed at the same time.

MR. BROWN was glad that Lower Canada was to be saved from this new Separate School Bill, and that the still worse bill of the member for Russell was also to be quashed. He could not sympathize in the regrets of the Attorney General about either, nor could he agree with the member for Hochelaga that one bill should necessarily be passed if the other was. It had been shown again and again that the two systems were widely different, and a change in one by no means proved the need of a change in the other. The declarations of members representing the British inhabitants of Lower Canada proved there was no special need of legislation; that the Lower Canada minority might trust to the justice of the majority, as he knew the Upper Canada minority might safely trust the majority there. It was a pity these members had not sooner arrived at that opinion. Not an Upper Canada member but the Attorney General was to be found to give support to the bill of the member for Russell. The Catholics themselves did not want separate schools with the attendant extra cost, and did not feel any wrong done by refusing it.

HON. J. A. MACDONALD.—How could the hon. member say that when every Roman Catholic Bishop in the Province had stated in the memorial that it would be a gross wrong if the House refused what was granted to Lower Canada.

MR. BROWN.—Perhaps they held that view, but he never met an intelligent Roman Catholic yet who, if not interfered with, was not willing that his children should go to a common school with Protestant children, unless, perhaps, in large towns, where large numbers lived together. Respecting the resignation, he was sure the Finance Minister would not expect from him so much disingenuousness as to say, after their difference on matters of public policy, that he regretted the control of our finances was passing out of his hands. But he could say this most sincerely—that it was matter for rejoicing that that hon. gentleman was ready to abandon office and power, and the influence incidental to it, because of conscientious scruples respecting the non-fulfilment of a pledge he had given. Such conduct not only a nim credit, but it served to elevate the tone of public life in this country; and he could also add as sincerely, that though he might be replaced by some minister whose financial policy he (Mr Brown) could more

heartily approve, yet they could scarcely hope to see one who, in his bearing towards the House, in persuasive eloquence in his personal interviews with members, would win such general favor. [Applause.]

MR. MCGEE said it surely was neither an extraordinary nor unreasonable desire of the ministers in both Provinces that they should ask some provision for the protection of peculiar interests in the fundamental law under which they were hereafter to be governed. In the past, when smaller communities united with greater, these stipulations had been almost invariably made; when Scotland united with England, when Ireland with Britain, the smaller communities had stipulated for and received guarantees for the protection of peculiar interests, and in the neighboring States equality of representation was accorded in the Senate of the union, that the smaller States might protect themselves from the domination of the greater. For himself, were he resident in Upper Canada, he should not fear to trust to its majority, to its sense of justice in its quieter moods, but it was liable, as all people were, to be misled by the misinformed, and by appeals to its prejudices and passions. It had been so misinformed and misled at times. He had confidence in the honesty of their intentions, not in the decisions arrived at in periods of excitement. The hon. member for Oxford spoke as one conversant with the feelings of the Roman Catholic minority of Upper Canada. He ought to know something about them, for no one had written more largely or cruelly than he upon them. If alarm was felt by the Roman Catholics in Western Canada, the *Globe* was in a great measure responsible for it. He had never felt more profound humiliation and regret at the course of public affairs in Canada than during the last few hours. It were far better for the Provinces—far better for our credit if we had been able fairly and dispassionately to consider the claims of both minorities, better in all respects if we could have risen above sectarian animosities, and dealt in a calm and candid spirit with this difficult subject. We were forced to confess now in the face of the world our inability to do so; that we were unable to discuss anything fairly in which the religious element entered. We had many important debates on other public questions addressed to empty benches or yawning or listless hearers; but so soon as a sectarian gong was sounded, members came flocking in, eager to take part in or listen to the strife. Perchance some of the claims put forth upon one side or the other were exaggerated, perhaps all could not be granted; but thus to refuse a hearing and prevent discussion was far from creditable to our public life.

MR. BROWN protested that there was no analogy here to the case of Scotland and Ireland. The proof that the Upper Canada minority might trust the majority was that the Ministry was the strongest for years in Upper Canada. Their votes had passed the last separate school bill.

MR. MCGEE.—Not passed by the Upper Canada majority, and the hon. gentleman and his immediate friends opposed it vehemently.

MR. M. C. CAMERON did not regret the loss of the bill, but the retirement of the Minister of Finance in the manner in which it had been forced. Not he alone, but his colleagues also were pledged to the Lower Canada bill, but others had not retired; and the pledge thus openly given and not protested against, was in some degree assuredly binding on the supporters of the Government. It looked like a breach of faith in the Lower Canada majority thus to destroy the promised measure of concession; for that, and that alone made Upper Canadians feel that in parting from the British inhabitants of Lower Canada, they might be leaving them in danger of unjust treatment; but he felt assured if either majority were to attempt oppression, they would receive such a lesson as would affectually prevent its recurrence.

The discussion then closed and the order was discharged.

### Sites for Schoolhouses.

We subjoin the text of a law passed during the last session of Parliament on the above subject. Some difficulty was occasionally experienced in procuring a suitable site for a school, owing to the unwillingness of the proprietor of the most central site to sell it at a reasonable price. The new law provides for an arbitration, thus giving an easy and equitable remedy for what has not unfrequently been felt to be a local grievance. The bill was introduced by Louis Archambault, Esquire, M. P. P., to whom the public is in a measure indebted for this useful legislation.