

then approaching, with Mr. Laurier at their head. Information was received that such an understanding did exist between them, and if there was anything wanting to prove that beyond a peradventure, it was a remark made by Mr. Greenway the other day in the House of Assembly when this question was under discussion, when the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Roblin, was pointing out that the terms of this agreement had not settled the question—that it had not removed the discontent, nor would it remove the discontent that existed. Mr. Greenway replied that it had accomplished one thing, and that was it had driven the Conservative party out of power. Now, that was the object, I have not the slightest doubt from the beginning, and I believe the party now in power was a party to that arrangement and a party to that understanding. Whether the people affected are satisfied with the settlement or not is a question for them to decide. I do not agree with some of those with whom I act politically on this question. It has been said, repeatedly said, and I regret to say it has been repeated in the House of Commons lately, that because the people of the province of Quebec had returned a large majority against the late government, who proposed to do justice to the minority in Manitoba, that therefore we should drop the question altogether. Now, to me, it matters not what position the people of Quebec may take. If every man in that province were to record his vote in favour of Mr. Laurier, whether because of his race or because of his creed, it is a matter which does not affect the question at issue one iota. The simple question is this, did the constitution give to the minority in Manitoba certain rights and privileges? Did the parliament of Canada in 1870, when they passed the constitution of Manitoba, intend that the minority should be protected in their educational rights, or in the exercise of the rights and privileges which they had at that time so far as education and the teaching of their religion is concerned? If so, it matters not to me whether the whole country should decide against me or not, my position would not be affected as to their rights under the constitution. Every one who thinks upon the subject, who came to the decision that we did upon the question, believing the minority of Manitoba to have rights which should be maintained, ought not to be influenced by

the result of the general election, or the result of any election which has taken place since then. After all, did the last general election prove that the Roman Catholic population of Canada approved of this settlement, or that they would be content with the settlement of the question which has been presented to this House? We all know that every candidate in the province of Quebec pledged himself in writing, by speech, or by solemn declaration, to do more than the Conservative party proposed to do, and if the honest habitants took the word of their countrymen when it was dinned into their ears, is it to wondered at? We know that they were told, not only by Catholic leaders but by Protestants also, when this question of the Remedial Bill was discussed: "Are not the rights of the minority in Manitoba safer in the hands of Laurier, who is a Frenchman and a Catholic, than they would be in the hands of Sir Mackenzie Bowell, who is a Protestant and an Orangeman?" This was the method pursued, these were the utterances which were made to the voters of the province of Quebec, and if they believed, as no doubt they did, the assurances of the present premier and his followers, I am not prepared to say that I blame them so much for the manner in which they voted. Since the general election, and since the terms of the agreement have been made public, there have been several by-elections, and I heard them referred to in the House of Commons a few nights ago, as evidence of the fact that the country accepted the settlement. Is that true? Has not every candidate in the by-elections, in the province of Quebec and in other parts of the Dominion, stated that they do not regard this as a final settlement, but that they would obtain more, that this was simply a beginning of what they intended to accomplish? Did not Mr. Laurier himself state in a speech in Montreal that this was but an instalment, and that he would continue to agitate for more concessions? If the people are all content with this settlement, what necessity is there for the government candidates pledging themselves to agitate for further concessions to the minority in Manitoba? In all the elections which have taken place since the general election, with the exception of one, the people had pronounced upon this question before, and the only constituency in which the people are now and have been directly interested in this matter—that is St. Boniface