

deration of the Provinces was under consideration, that it was not safe to trust the educational interests of the minority in the hands of the majority professing another faith and speaking another language. Whether these fears were well or ill founded, it was considered only proper that the question should be settled, and accordingly it was agreed at the Quebec Conference, so called, that a measure should be carried through the Legislature of Canada, at its last session before Confederation, which should place the question upon a satisfactory basis. (Applause.) To carry out this agreement a bill was introduced by the Hon. Mr. Langevin into the last Parliament of Canada, commonly called "The Langevin Bill," containing such provisions as were considered satisfactory to both Protestants and Roman Catholic. I need not go into the details of the failure of this measure in a house composed, it will be recollected, of a majority of English Protestants. The bill was withdrawn after some discussion, and this circumstance was felt so deeply and made so much of by certain parties who were seeking occasion for finding fault and to stir up national and religious feeling, that even those who entertained no such fears were obliged to take action, otherwise serious difficulties were apprehended, and Confederation was exceedingly doubtful.—(Cheers.)

It will, Mr. Speaker, be in the recollection of honorable members, that the honorable member for Montreal East stated that the Protestants need feel under no apprehension as to their rights under the Quebec Legislature, that he felt assured the Parliament of Quebec would do justice to the rights of all, irrespective of creed or nationality. This declaration was by some considered as a mere put off, at the time. The result which I will allude to by-and-by clearly shows that the Hon. Baronet, well understood his countrymen, knew their desire to do justice to the minority, and could fully rely on their action in this regard when the time came. However in the meantime, a clause was introduced into the B. N. A. Act, 1867, on the subject of Education, which, while it left the question in the hands of the Quebec Legislature gave in certain cases the right of appeal to the Dominion authorities. At the 2nd Session of this House the question came up—I was not at the time a Member of the Government, and it will be in the recollec-