

rights; and parental rights and the constitution will remain the ground on which we will continue to advocate the redress of our grievances. Let the parliamentary compact entered into at the time of the union be carried out, or else let every province in confederation take its own course as before. What is the use of confederating ourselves if each province can at any time disregard the conditions of its entry into that confederation and break the pledges that it has taken. The government of no country can be carried on unless on the principle that good faith must be kept with everybody, with every corporation, with every section of the country, and above all with the constitution itself.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—Will the hon. gentleman tell me where the province of Manitoba made any pledges?

Hon. Mr. BERNIER—Yes, I could speak for an hour relating all the pledges they have made. I did so in 1894 when speaking here. I then mentioned the pledges they made.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—You mean the Acts they passed subsequent to confederation?

Hon. Mr. BERNIER—I mean the pledges taken when the province came into the union; I mean the pledges taken by the legislature of the province when the legislative council was abolished; I mean the pledges which the liberal party took in that now celebrated election of St. François Xavier; I mean the pledges Mr. Greenway took when he formed his government; I mean the school legislation passed by the local legislature subsequent to its entry into confederation, which is more than a pledge; I mean the pledges that were taken both by the local authorities and by the federal authorities when they invited the people of the eastern provinces to go and settle in Manitoba in order that the immense resources of that province could be worked up. That invitation was coupled with the assurance that the educational laws in particular afforded protection to the views of everybody, and that they could and would not be disturbed. If such representations had not been made, I for one would not have gone there and worked for the colonization

of that province. To-day, all these pledges are violated. It is to the shame of Canada that for eight long years the constitution has been so violated.

Under the circumstances I say that we must maintain our claims. We will not recede one iota from the position we have taken from the first. At the same time I must say this, that while holding such a position, we do not want to put any obstacles in the way of an equitable settlement. We have justice on our side; we have the constitution on our side, we want also to put generosity on our side. In the document to which I have alluded, there is an invitation to every one of us to be moderate, there is an invitation to peace and harmony. We love peace, and we desire peace. We are cheerfully willing to follow the advice that is contained in that document. At present it might be contended that sufficient time has not yet elapsed since that utterance has been made known, to enable the competent authorities to come to a decision. I take it for granted that those who have appealed to Rome have done so with a view to abiding by the decision they should receive. Now, granting that they have not had time to effect anything up to the present, we are willing to be patient, but patience does not mean surrender. If the competent authorities are willing to do what is right, let them do so of their own motion within a reasonable time. If full justice is given, well and good; if not, if no justice at all is rendered to us, or if only partial justice is given us, it will be our duty to maintain our position and to continue the fight we began in 1890; it is our duty to make the government and the country acquainted with our determination to take the constitution into our hands, and without any break in our efforts, ask parliament to redeem the honour of this Canada of ours, which stands to-day, I regret to say, in an unenviable position. The other day the right honourable premier closed a speech in another place by a eulogy of liberty. Liberty is just what we want. But there is no liberty where the constitution is violated. There is no liberty where a crushing injustice is done to so large a portion of the people; and to use the words of Sir A. T. Galt, there is no greater injustice than to force a people to educate their children contrary to their conscientious convictions. As British subjects, as citizens of Canada, we are entitled to the protection of the