

which they were so extremely anxious to take on the question before the country. That horrid Tory government of Canada that had sent this question to the courts had prevented the Liberal party from taking up the question and discussing it, but we had the decision of the Privy Council rendered some time in January last. We have had the remedial order passed for more than a month and we have had several by-elections. Parliament has met and the people are busy discussing the question, but still the leader of the Liberal party is hiding in his cave, holding himself in readiness to take advantage of any complication that may arise and make political capital out of it, notwithstanding his declaration that that is not his wish. Perhaps I have said enough on the Manitoba school question. My hon. friend from Halifax, speaking the other day, said that the electors of Antigonish did not render their verdict in the recent by-election on the Manitoba school question but upon the fiscal policy of the government.

Hon. Mr. POWER—I do not think I suggested that.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON (P.E.I.)—I think those were his words, if not I would like to know what the hon. gentleman did say. "The electors of Antigonish decided that election on the fiscal policy of the country," those were his words I think. Well, perhaps to some extent they did so, but the government did not shirk discussion on the fiscal policy. A very large part of the discussion was devoted to the trade policy. In fact, so far as the members of the government and their friends were concerned fully as much time was given to the trade question as to any other. At the same time, I do not think it is altogether right to say that the electors of the constituency gave their verdict altogether upon the trade question. Having been there myself, and having attended some of the meetings where I heard speeches by members of the Liberal party, I know I am right when I say that the opposition candidate and the opposition speakers went beyond the government in regard to the Manitoba school question. They said that the Government had not gone far enough and that the remedial order was only so much waste paper, because it did not set forth a day and intimate to the Manitoba government in plain terms that if they did not by that day

restore the separate schools to the province the federal parliament would intervene. The opposition speakers found serious fault with the government because they did not threaten in that order what they would do in the case of inaction on the part of the province and name a day when they would do it. So far, therefore, from giving an adverse vote to the policy of the government, in so far as the passage of the remedial order is concerned, the electors may be said not only to have endorsed it, but to have gone beyond it from the fact that the opposition speakers went further than the government in promising to take a strong course on the question.

Hon. Mr. POWER—They saw you and went you a little better.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON (P.E.I.)—Perhaps that is about the way to put it. My hon. friend admits that the opposition went one better than the government.

Hon. Mr. POWER—Excuse me—the hon. gentleman is fond of talking about what other people say. I simply say after hearing the hon. gentleman's story that it appears now that the opposition speakers saw the hon. gentleman and went a little better.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON (P.E.I.)—I think I have made it clear that they did go one better. They went a good deal better, and that may account to some extent for the vote given to Mr. McIsaac. I know that the speakers on the Opposition side denounced and condemned the Government for having trifled with the question, claiming that the remedial order did not meet the requirements of the case. There is no doubt, however, that the fiscal policy of the government was discussed very fully in the contest, and that the opposition candidate in that contest assured the people that if they supported him and the Liberal party were returned to power they would be able to buy kerosene oil at three or four cents a gallon. The statement which I refer to was made I was told in meetings throughout the county by the Liberal candidate himself. Now I have in my possession quotations showing that the whole sale price of kerosene oil in New York and Boston at the present time is about twelve cents a gallon, to say nothing of the duty or the cost of importation. This dis-