

succeeded to power. It is a pity that such a thing should be done. I cannot refrain from expressing my satisfaction that this wholesome rule was not departed from in the province from which I come, and that Mr. Davies was taken into the Cabinet to represent the province of Prince Edward Island. In that case Mr. Laurier did what was right. There was no other man of the Liberal party in the province at all entitled to the position in the same degree that Mr. Davies was. So far as Prince Edward Island is concerned, there is no reason to complain, but in the cases of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario, an entirely different rule has been followed, and I think it is not just to the people. The perpetuation of any such thing will strain our federal system more than anything else I have in view at the present time. I do not think it is necessary to make much reference to the Manitoba school question on the present occasion. I have not much fault to find with what the Minister of Justice has said with regard to questions of creed and race generally. One party or the other may have been blamable in the past with regard to bringing these questions up. I have nothing to say as to that, but I must say, as far as this Manitoba question is concerned, it had been forced into the federal arena by the action of the Liberal party in the province of Manitoba, and it was kept there and perpetuated by the Liberal party generally. It is a matter of very great regret that such should have been done, and there is grave reason to fear that there has been an understanding from first to last between the federal members of the Liberal party and the government of Manitoba with regard to that question. What did we see the other day? Statements have been made in their press that the matter is practically settled—not exactly confirmed by the statement of the Minister of Justice in this House—but we see these statements renewed, and strongly renewed, and we have seen Mr. Sifton's statement, that a basis was arrived at and the question was practically settled. Can it be that this question, for which no solution could be found from the time the Manitoba School Act was passed in 1890 up to the present time, can be settled by an agreement between the new Federal Cabinet and representatives of the Manitoba government in a very few days? If such is the

case, if the commission which has been so long promised is not to be appointed and it is found that these gentlemen can come together and effect a settlement satisfactory to all parties—that is what I suppose is meant by a settlement—it will be a very severe reflection, to my mind, on the politics of Canada. It will show that this question was initiated and kept open year after year for the purpose of embarrassing and driving from power the political party that had so long ruled in Canada and had been so satisfactory to its people for a long term of years; and in the confusion and excitement consequent upon this school question this party was driven from power and another party comes in; and if it is found that the government of Manitoba will yield to them at once and settle the question on a basis satisfactory to all parties, though it is a good thing for the public as a whole, it is a deplorable thing in view of the character it will give our politics in the eyes of the world. I trust the question will be settled. Every man who desires the good of the country cannot help wishing that it can be removed from the arena of federal politics as soon as possible, but I have no hesitation in recording my own belief that the candid historian of the last six years will be constrained to record some very severe facts against the character of the men who brought this question into federal politics and kept it that way for so long a period of time.

Hon. Mr. BOULTON—I have always taken advantage of the debate on the address to discuss public questions that are before the country because an opportunity is afforded to those who discuss them, without being confined in their limits to the exact form in which the speech of His Excellency may be presented to the House. Before commencing to make any remarks upon the public questions of the day I desire to unite with those gentlemen who have already spoken in such sympathetic terms of the late Sir David Macpherson and the late Mr. Read who have been taken from us since the last session of parliament. I cannot add anything to what has already been said of their character and the great political experience that they brought to bear upon the country during their life time. They were among the original appointees to this honourable House, and ever since confederation the country has had the benefit of their