

accuses me, after thirty-five years of public life, of being coerced to vote as I have done. I draw the lines on that hon. gentleman.

Mr. WALLACE. Did I refer to the hon. gentleman?

Mr. FAIRBAIRN. You referred to every member on this side of the House.

Mr. WALLACE. I beg the hon. gentleman's pardon. I did not refer to every member from Ontario. I said there were members.

Mr. FAIRBAIRN. You alluded to me, when you looked at this side of the House.

Mr. WALLACE. The hon. gentleman says I looked at him. Perhaps I did.

Mr. FAIRBAIRN. I wish to tell the hon. gentleman that it comes with bad grace from him, with reference to me, at least. There was no more anxious man in this House than myself when he was on trial a few years ago, and when Sir Adolphe Caron assembled his whole forces for the relief and saving of the hon. gentleman, in the absence of our leader, Sir John Thompson, who was absent on that most important mission in connection with the Behring Sea question; and it comes with bad grace from him to speak in the way he does to-day of men who take their political lives in their hands on behalf of justice. I offer my regrets and rebukes for that kind of remark, when it comes near home. I have given a vote, and I have given it conscientiously without being asked by anybody. After the argument made by the hon. Secretary of State upon the second reading of this Bill, it seems to me that those people in Manitoba should have settled this difficulty in three hours. As a juror of this country, I fail to see that the argument laid down by the hon. Secretary of State has been answered or confuted yet. I, as a juror, if sworn as before a court, could not help giving the verdict I did, according to the evidence presented to this House. Every fair-minded man would have to admit the same thing, if he was a sworn juror. Now, I want to say to the hon. leader of the Opposition that I regret exceedingly that I, as an Orangeman since the year 1855, have to stand on the floor of this House and vindicate the rights of the Catholic minority in Manitoba when the leader of the Opposition will not stand up for the rights of the minority of his own religion, for the sake of political clap-trap. I say as an honest

man and having the courage of my convictions that it is greatly to be regretted that a man would sacrifice the rights of his own church and his own people for the sake of a little political capital. I pity the hon. gentleman. I remember very well a day or two after the opening of this debate, when I was standing up in defence of the hon. gentleman, and saying that I was pleased to see him in good health and good form and good voice, and that he had made a good fight in such a bad cause, always having a sympathy for the "under dog" in a fight, a nice little curly-headed French Canadian remarked: "Mr. Laurier speak well, speak long, but, my God, he say nothing." I agree with that bright, black-eyed young French Canadian that Mr. Laurier spoke well, and spoke long, but he said nothing. He never pretended to answer the arguments of the leader of the House. I say it is an outrage upon the stability of this country that these people in Manitoba cannot enjoy the same educational privileges as the Protestant minority enjoy in Quebec. I would go a long way to allow them to have the same privileges, and I think the least we can do is to give them the privilege of putting their hands in their pockets to provide for the education of their own children. The religious teaching of our children is a sacred right that all Canadians have a right to enjoy. The hon. leader of the Opposition made a remark in his first speech which I think was in bad taste. He pitched into his clergyman. If my clergyman interfered with anything pertaining to my farm, I would cross swords with him very quick; but I think any clergyman has a right to look after the religious interests of his own flock. I had not looked at that letter until after I had heard the hon. gentleman's remarks. Then I went and hunted it up, and I really thought it was very fair, and gave good advice to the hon. gentleman, and he might be proud to follow a shepherd like that. Now, Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to prolong the debate. I did not intend to say a word until I heard the remark of the hon. member for West York which I thought it was my duty to rise in my place and contradict. I pity the leader of the Opposition for the fact that he will sacrifice his religious principles for a little political capital, nothing more nor less. As I have spoken impromptu and without notes, I regret that I have been unable to do justice to this important subject.