

the truth. If this country had remained under the rule of France the Jesuits would have been expelled. Consequently, they had no legal claim on this country. (A voice—"Turn them out.") He did not like the idea of answering a man's speech when the man was not present, but he should say something in answer to the arguments or statements of the Minister of Justice. He was anxious to know if he was right, and this he could only find out by looking in a man's face and watching his looks and color as indicating his feelings. It had been said by the Minister of Justice that the common law of England was not introduced into Canada at the time the country passed from France to England. The judges of the English Queen's Bench had, however, decided that the law was in the prerogative of England, and that England had full power here. The fact was that the law of England was supreme, and the old law of France, dealing with the Jesuits, became extinct. In fact, the Jesuit body could not exist in England if the law were rigidly enforced, even under the Catholic Emancipation Act. The King of England granted to the conquered people of this country that freedom of religion accorded to the people of Great Britain. It was a happy thing to know that there was freedom of religion wherever the cross of St. George waved. (Applause.) If this Society of Jesus would have been dissolved here by the French, why should they be tolerated and fostered by the English? There were other religious communities as well as the Jesuits, but so anxious was England to have justice done that directions were given to allow these societies to exist till it was ascertained whether it was necessary for the free exercise of the Roman Catholic religion that they should continue to exist. The policy of the Government was to allow the Jesuits to reside upon these estates and draw their revenues therefrom till, by lapse of time, the society came to an end. It was not until 1800 that the last of the fathers in Quebec died, and he died in the active occupation of the Jesuit Estate in the city of Quebec. The Crown having from the earliest time after the conquest announced what its policy would be, issued its writ to take possession of the estates of the Jesuits; and they belonged to the Crown of Great Britain; just as the public lands in the province acquired from the original occupants belonged to the Crown. He had stated these facts—and they were beyond contradiction—for the purpose of enabling them to determine and judge of the value attached to what was termed the moral claim. Well, the estates became the property of the Crown of Great Britain, not to be for the private purpose of the King but as a part of the public domain. As was the custom in those days, General Amherst, who was chief in command when the country was captured, and who survived Wolfe, made a claim for a recognition of his military services, and suggested that compensation should be made to him out of the Jesuit estates. The Ministers of the Crown were disposed to listen to the application, and in point of fact gave orders that the General should be compensated out of the Jesuit estates, but from one cause or other delays took place, and opposition was aroused among the French-Canadians, who claimed, and in fact insisted, that these estates had been given to the Jesuits, not as private property, but for the purpose of Christianising the heathen Indian and educating the French-Canadians, and they agitated and agitated till they got their way and the estates were made over for that purpose. In 1775 the formal order was issued dissolving the Jesuit Society and in 1785 the estates were taken possession of and became part of the public domain. In 1835, as a result of the objection made by the French-Canadians, prompted, he need scarcely say, by the hierarchy, a proclamation, a copy of which could be found in the statutes of the province, was issued setting aside these estates out of the royal domain for the purpose of education, to which purpose it said they were to be exclusively and for all time maintained. At