

it not for the wisdom and foresight of this government, our good friends from the west would have eaten up between them, their wives and children, the hundred million bushels of wheat that have not yet been sold. That is a small matter, but I intend speaking of small matters to-day, or to speak in a jocular vein of serious matters.

To complete my friendly advice to my dear friend the leader of the opposition, I add this much: let him avoid quotations. They sometimes react with a vengeance. And let me give this other piece of friendly advice to the Prime Minister: he was not only unchristian, he was inhuman, last night. It is not befitting the leader of a Christian community, to roast an opponent the way he did.

There are two or three questions contained in the speech from the throne upon which the leader of the opposition has touched and to which I should like to refer. The first is the question of the natural resources which have been handed back to Alberta and Manitoba and which are to be handed back to Saskatchewan when Saskatchewan accepts the terms offered by this government, similar as they are to the terms accepted by Manitoba and Alberta. The leader of the opposition enlightened the house by quoting one clause of the constitution of Canada. Perhaps that is not a bad idea. In my forty years' experience, I have noticed that many legislators in Canada ignore the constitution of Canada in many respects, both in its letter and in its spirit. It is a good thing at times to read the letter of the constitution, but it is better still to respect the spirit of it, which advice the leader of the opposition could give to his friend the premier of Saskatchewan at the present time. Then the hon. gentleman read a section of the Alberta Act, and he indicated quite clearly that his attitude was similar to that of the premier of Saskatchewan, or in other words that those provinces should consider, as we should consider, that they entered confederation not in 1905, when they were created by this parliament, but in 1868 or in 1870, when the Northwest Territories were purchased by Canada under an act or order in council of the British government, sanctioning an arrangement with the Hudson's Bay Company.

I do not propose to enter into details now; I simply desire to say, in the name of the people whom I represent and perhaps a few others whom I represent morally if not politically: We do not ask the government of Canada to settle this question from any narrow viewpoint of race or creed; we do

not ask the government of Canada to impose upon any province any obligation contrary to the constitution. All we ask is for the government and the parliament of Canada to respect the solemn pledges made in the name of the Canadian nation by the parliament of Canada in 1875, when such noble men as John A. Macdonald and Edward Blake, Alexander Campbell and Alexander Mackenzie, joined hands to stipulate, in a statute of the land, that in these virgin provinces, in order to avoid the quarrels of the past in Ontario and Quebec, warning should be given to all comers, whether Catholics or Protestants, whether French or English or Irish, that the same love of liberty which prevailed in Quebec and which still prevails there, the right of every man to educate his children according to his creed, should also prevail in the west; that Catholics there should be as free as Protestants, and Protestants as free as Catholics. That is all I need to say to-day, and that should settle, if men and women in this country are in good faith and capable of hearing, the absurd contention that Quebec, or even the insignificant being that I am, desire to impose upon any province in the west something different from the law of justice and equity which prevails in our own province.

With regard to the question of pensions to returned soldiers, I do not propose either to discuss that matter to-day. Undoubtedly the country has a moral indebtedness to the men who were induced, rightly or wrongly, by persuasion, by threats or by conscription, to go and fight in Europe on the side of England, France, Italy and Russia—the land of liberty, civilization and democracy—against Germany, Austria and Turkey, and I do not begrudge anything that may be justly done in favour of those men who were really disabled in the war and for their dependents. However, in the name of all those people of all provinces who hold that they have a greater duty towards Canada than towards any country in Europe or Asia, I say that it is about time we should think more of the people who live and work in Canada, for Canada, than of the people who go to fight in Europe, for Europe. That is all I have to say now on that point.

Now coming to the speech of the Prime Minister, there are a couple of points to which I should like to refer to-day. In his usual felicitous manner, when talking of constitutional matters, the Prime Minister referred to the prerogative of the government to announce and precipitate elections at its own will. He said that it was a good feature of