

Is there none so poor among hon. gentlemen opposite as to do the Manitoba school question reverence? Never was such a fraud perpetrated upon honest people who believed in it, fought for it and felt that they were fighting for that which they ought to have. But what will these people say to the party who went to the country declaring that they were ready to die for it, and when they have left it so? Recalling the declaration of my good friend—and being a Nova Scotian, I can stand by him even when nobody else in the Liberal party can, for I admire him more than a little—I feel that there is the same vein and spirit in him now as there was when he said he was ready to die for the school question. The government made a mistake. Instead of sending two or three thousand men to South Africa, to put down the uprising in the Orange Free State and the Transvaal, they should have induced the leader of the opposition to go and engage in mortal combat with Oom Paul, and the thing would have been settled in five minutes; for the man who was ready to die for the school question, would readily enough give his life for the salvation of the empire. But the question is dead; only its history and its connection with that party will remain.

I notice that a new phrase has been coined by members of the opposition. They speak now, not of protection, but of 'fitting protection.' It used to be 'protection,' pure and simple; it used to be the national policy, 'national,' as showing that it was intended to extend over the whole of Canada. Now, it is 'fitting protection.' At first, I did not understand what that meant. A fitting suit for a gentleman means, one that is appropriate, not only in the style of cut, but in the colour, so that he who wears it presents a fitting appearance, because the suit fits him. I can understand things like that. But 'fitting protection,' I did not understand. So I went to the source of information. We all have to gather our information by finding out what the learned have to say. I first consulted Johnson. We have had a good many dictionaries since Johnson published his, but I do not know that, for the size of it, it has ever been very much improved upon. He gives three separate and distinct meanings to 'fitting.' The first is 'to accommodate to anything.' So, 'fitting protection,' means to accommodate protection to anything. That is to say, the hon. member for West York (Mr. Wallace) may say: We want everything done in Canada, but when I want a hand-bill, it is fitting protection that I should be allowed to get it outside. Or, an hon. member may want to get a certain article cheap, while he wants to sell the articles that he produces dear. Now, the protection that makes the article he makes dear, on account of the advance of duty, lessens the protection of the man who makes an article that he wishes to get cheap. is 'fitting protection,' because it accommodates

itself to anything. Another meaning, is 'to suit one thing to another.' It is extraordinary, how appropriate that definition is. That is to say, for example, if you can suit a certain amount of money to our campaign needs, we will make a tariff that will suit you—that is suiting one thing to another. Nothing could be more appropriate. The man who invented that phrase 'fitting protection,' understood the eternal fitness of things.

Mr. McMULLEN. A genius.

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough). More than a genius, because he suits all sorts of people. The late President Lincoln, after he had listened for some time to a man who was explaining the beauties of a certain article, said that for people that liked that kind of thing, that was just the kind of thing. Another meaning is not only to suit one thing to another, but to suit a person with anything. It does not make any difference what you want, 'fitting protection' will suit you. It depends on the power you have, but according to that power, you will be suited with what you want. A person says: I can command so many votes. Very well, replies the Conservative party, we will suit you. Then I turned to Webster. I wished to be cosmopolitan, so I took an American as well as an English dictionary. Webster goes further back and says that the old English word from which 'fitting' is derived, originally meant a song. That is just the thing. How many airs have been used in singing of the N. P. since 1878. The N. P. was the only song. It was sung to the manufacturers, sung to the farmers, sung to the lumbermen, sung to everybody. Of course the instrument had to be changed. One man sung it to a flute, another to a jewsharp, another to a banjo, and another to a fiddle; and the wives and daughters of loyal Conservatives sat at their pianos and sang it. It was the old song of the N. P.—the N. P. has made you rich, the N. P. has made us great, the N. P. has extended our trade, the N. P. is the life of Canada. But Webster goes further. He says that 'fitting' means 'convenient,' 'meet.' It is very convenient about election times, about times when you want to get votes. It is fair that I should explain that the other word is m-e-e-t, though it was also m-e-a-t to that party. Then I went to the Imperial dictionary, and what did I find? I find that 'fitting' means 'in a state of preparedness.' That, I think, is as appropriate as the other. The other meanings are, 'to accommodate any person,' 'to prepare,' 'to put in order for,' 'to furnish things proper or necessary.' It seems to me that this last meaning in the Imperial dictionary surpasses them all. It accommodates a person with anything, it prepares him and puts him in order, and furnishes him with things proper and necessary. Did

Mr. FRASER (Guysborough).