

now? He asks us to dispose of this question without any knowledge of the conditions of the people of the North-West. We do not know whether they will understand English or not. It may be that nine-tenths of them do understand English; but suppose there is a proportion who do not understand English, what then? The hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Denison) said last night that a great number of them speak Cree, and therefore the laws of the North-West should be printed in Cree; and the hon. member for Muskoka (Mr. O'Brien) said it was only a local question which should be settled in the North-West. I ask if it ought not to be settled

AFTER HEARING THE FACTS OF THE CASE,

and settled by those who are most competent to judge? Should we be called upon in this court to deliver judgment

BEFORE WE HEAR THE EVIDENCE?

The hon. gentleman would not ask such a decision from an ordinary court of the land. Then, why should he ask it from this, the

HIGHEST COURT AND TRIBUNAL IN THE LAND?

If this is to be settled according to the views of the people, the proper tribunal must be the North-West representatives or some other tribunal, after learning the facts of the case. But the hon. gentleman went further. He intimated that no man could be a loyal citizen practically unless he spoke the dominant tongue of the country. In making that statement he has, no doubt inadvertently cast a slur upon many of the loyal citizens of the British Empire. Would he accuse of disloyalty.

THE HIGHLANDERS OF SCOTLAND,

the Welsh, the people of the Channel Islands, and here in this country the Scotch population of Cape Breton, Cornwall and Glengary, and the Germans? We have found that

EVEN THE INDIANS

were to be trusted in the hour of need, that they were true to our institutions, and we can point with pride to the pages of Canadian history to obtain facts to disprove the assertion of the hon. gentleman. We have records in our history which are dear to Canadian people. Who does not recollect Tecumseh and Tyendinaga, whose remains lie in a chapel in the constituency represented by my hon. friend from South Brant (Mr. Patterson). Those men represented the loyalty even of the savage tribes of Canada in our early troubles, and though not speaking our tongue, were loyal to Great Britain. If all the other citizens of the Empire who do not speak the Anglo-Saxon language have been true, as they have been, what is there to be found in the pages of history since the French Canadian people became citizens of Canada to make my hon. friend