

pal laws or regulations of any kind that were asked to interfere with, and for which they were called upon by the bill to create a temporary form of government. Parliament had an undoubted right under these circumstances to make such provisions regarding the question of education, or any other question, for this new territory, as in its wisdom it thought best for the future peace and well being of the country. The difficulties they had already encountered in the old Provinces in regard to education should be a warning to them to prevent similar troubles arising in the Provinces they hoped to see spring up in the North-West. This policy had been applied to Manitoba, and who can deny that that course had been wise, and would save that Province from all the discord and bitter agitation through which the older Provinces were either passing or had already passed. It was unfortunate that the Act of Union had not settled the educational rights of all the old Provinces on a just and liberal basis, as had been done in Ontario and Quebec. If that had been the case, the Dominion would have been saved the sad spectacle that was now presented with regard to some of the Maritime Provinces. Did the hon. gentleman (Mr. Brown) who advocated the amendment proposed by the hon. member opposite (Hon. Mr. Aikins) wish to see the same troubles in the future history of the new Provinces? If not, this was the proper time to prevent those difficulties and bad feelings that were sure to arise in every mixed community where education was left an open question. They could do now safely and easily what they might not hereafter be able to accomplish when powerful conflicting interests had grown up in the territory. Was it wiser to do so than to leave to that country a source of division, weakness and religious strife that might mar its future progress, and even endanger the Government of the country? He thought they should take a lesson from their past experience, and deal with the subject in a fair and liberal spirit. All the bill asked was that all parties in that new country should have such schools as they chose to establish at their own expense, and

that minorities would at all times be safe against the tyranny or intolerance of majorities. That would not be interfering with the just rights of any body or clan; but, on the contrary, it would be guaranteeing the rights of all classes. It would simply be providing while they had the power to do so, for freedom of conscience with regard to the vexed question of education. It should be borne in mind that the body to which he belonged felt deeply in this question, and would never quietly submit to injustice or oppression in reference to it. That body comprised forty-five or forty-seven per cent. of the whole population of this Dominion, and although they did not possess a fair representation in the Senate in proportion to population, they were still strong enough here and elsewhere to resist injustice and vindicate their conscientious views with regard to this or any other question. He hoped the House would take a wise and liberal view of the subject, and pass the bill as the Commons had sent it to them. He did not wish to be dragged into a prolonged discussion, but if forced upon him he would not avoid it. He trusted the Government would sincerely oppose the amendment, which would be judged by the votes of their supporters. But he warned hon. gentlemen that if the amendment was not voted down, it would endanger the passage of the whole bill. (Hear, hear.)

HON. MR. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST regretted very much that this discussion had arisen. The Government knew that great difficulties had already arisen in the existing Provinces with regard to the school question, and it was to prevent these difficulties in the new Province that this clause had been introduced. He thought we ought to try as much as possible to legislate for the peace and harmony of all classes whenever we had the power to do so. He would not say any more, but only express the hope that this House would not accept the amendment of his hon. friend.

HON. MR. FLINT supported the amendment contending that it would be better for education and the people generally to have the youth of the country brought up trained together. Religious instruction could be im-