

abide by it, although it is wrong in principle. This is one of the things attendant on this discussion, that it brings up the principles upon which the constitution of Canada rests. Of course we only get remarks of an interesting or educational character from the thoughtful and studious members. Some of the members persist in talking of tolerance and intolerance and to the religious issue they cling like a pup to a root. There is also an evident intention of obstructing any business-like progress with the bill in committee. In fact that has been expressly declared on the floor of the House. On Monday Mr. Maclean of South York said that until the portfolio of Public Works was filled and the vacancy in North Oxford filled, the House would not be justified in making any progress whatever, or, he said, progress of the most secondary character. He demanded that these two elections in Western Ontario should be held at once, and that, practically, parliament should stop its business for the period of about three weeks which would be necessary for the holding of an election. Mr. Maclean went on to say that if the government get the endorsement of the province of Ontario they might have "considerable reason" for going on with the bill. The force of the logic that if the city of London and the riding of North Oxford should elect Conservative candidates it would mean the verdict of the whole province of Ontario is not quite

palpable. The election of Mr. R. J. Borden by acclamation in Carleton, Ont., did not mean that Mr. Borden's policy was an issue or was indorsed. A vote in the city of London might, perhaps, be taken as indicative of the popular opinion in the West of Ontario, but then Western Ontario is not the whole Province.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier told Mr. Maclean that his remarks were in bad taste and pointed out that they had just returned from the funeral of the Hon. James Sutherland, and for him the day following to make the announcement of a successor and the issue of a writ was such undue haste that he thought Mr. Maclean himself did not expect any answer. Mr. Maclean again gave evidence when he projected railway rates into the discussions of a desire to retard progress on this bill. On Tuesday evening he discussed railway rates on the first clause which "fixes the boundaries of the new provinces." He read a very long and ridiculous letter he had received from some person evidently living in the United States, suggesting that the new province of Alberta should be called Cartier. The letter was so long that it suited Mr. Maclean's purpose to read it in full. Of course Mr. Maclean who is the member for South York might have been asked, if he was enamored of the name of Cartier, why he should not endeavor to apply it to South York, but Mr. Maclean would not do that.

