the Dominion government in issuing it, has been the subject of much adverse criticism. The federal ministers have been represented as taking Manitoba by the throat and trying to coerce its government and legislature into submission to the demands of the Roman Catholic minority.

On the other hand it has been contended with much force, that the action of the federal government was nothing more than was required by the constitution, in order to give effect to the judgment of the privy council. The only power that can give the minority any relief whatever, if relief be denied by the province, is the parliament of the Dominion. That parliament cannot speak, nor can the minority enter its doors with their petition, unless and until the Dominion executive shall have declared what modifications of the law, if any, is in its judgment needed to give relief. The remedial order was simply an order in council making such a declaration, and of course it is properly made in the form of an order in council. Without such an order, no relief could be given under the appeal, because without it parliament could not acquire jurisdiction. Unless, therefore, the Dominion government decided (as it might have done) that it would refuse redress of any kind, it had at some time to pass a remedial order.

Granting all that, however, it by no means follows that the making of the order at the time it was made was a prudent act, Principal Grant is undoubtedly right in saying that the decisive and serious step of passing a formal order, with a view to enabling parliament to intervene, should not be taken until every means of securing redress from the legislature had been exhausted. At the same time, neither Mr. Laurier nor he denies that the time may come when a remedial order must be passed. Indeed, they leave little room to doubt that in their view of it, remedial legislation will be necessary, in case of the continued failure of the provincial legislature to modify the existing law. But its failure to do so now, they think, is not to be taken as conclusive evidence that it will not yet do justice. The local ministers have not hitherto, in Mr. Laurier's judgment, been approached in a spirit that would justify an expectation that they would yield.

Without admitting that the provincial government is warranted in refusing to do justice, simply because the Dominion government may have summarily taken the formal step that will give parliament power to deal with the question, it is at least safe to say that Mr. Laurier's policy of conciliation is that most likely to lead to a settlement. Because of the delicate issues that are involved—issues that touch the tenderest feelings and the most deeply rooted convictions of different sections of the community, issues that are related to differences of creed and race—prudential considerations should have prompted the federal powers to resort to Mr. Laurier's policy, before taking a step that is liable to be regarded as a menace to the province. Wise counsels at Ottawa would have suggested the advisability of making an appeal in the name of patriotism and justice, to the hearts of Manitobans, before issuing an order that was almost the final step in the assumption, by parliament, of the power given it by the constitution to intervene.

If the government at Ottawa really failed to make such an appeal, and if they neglected before issuing the order, to bring the question before the Manitoba government in a conciliatory spirit, they cannot, I think, be held free from blame. Nor are they less blamable on their part, even though the Manitoba government on its part may be without excuse, in that it has not, in the spirit of patriotism, and with a regard to the admitted rights of the minority invited our own legislature to settle the matter.

In other words, the conditions that would justify the issue of the remedial order would not arise, until the government of the Dominion had first approached that of the province with a proposal that the latter should endeavor to settle the difficulty through its own legislature. Had this been done, and had the provincial government after a friendly advance, still failed or refused to take any step toward a settlement, then the issue of a remedial order would have been at least timely.

Again, even in the absence of such a proposal, if the provincial government, without awaiting the issue of an order from Ottawa, but in advance of it, and in anticipation of its issue had already announced its determination to stand by its law, and to grant no relief to the appellants, in that case too, there could be manifestly no fault found with the issue of a remedial order.

If, I say, either of such events had happened before the issue of the remedial order—that is to say, had a