

country and prove beneficial to the people of Newfoundland themselves, and it will place us in a position to treat the questions with which the country has to deal in a more effectual manner than at present. The hon. gentleman said that he did not understand the paragraph in the speech in reference to the treaty with France. It is quite true that the question arose as to whether the treaty was being made between France and Canada or between France and the mother country. If between France and the mother country, the question was whether the colonies might be considered as a third party or not. That has been set at rest by the interpretation given to it by the imperial authorities. But there was another question which required legislation before the treaty could be put into full operation, and which the imperial cabinet desires to have placed on the statute-book before they can ratify the treaty with France. I think it is unfortunate, but it is the fact that in the favoured nations treaties which were entered into between the German Zollverein and some other countries, Belgium among them, there is a provision that a British colony cannot give concessions to the mother country or to any other country in its tariff legislation, that are not given to those nations which are parties to those treaties; and Great Britain asks that Canada, in the present instance, make the concession to those countries which are parties to those treaties, before the ratification of the treaty, and it is only within the last month or so that we have been placed in a position to say to the mother country that we are prepared to accede to their request. Hence, it will be necessary to insert in the tariff resolutions a clause which will give effect to that, or to introduce a short bill declaring that the countries which are parties to the favoured nations treaties shall have the same rights and privileges that are given to France. That is what is meant by the paragraph to which my hon. friend alludes. I sincerely regret the tone, although very mildly uttered, in which the hon. gentleman opposite alluded to the vexed question of the Manitoba schools. A moment's reflection would have shown him that if he were true to the party to which he belongs, and of which he is the honoured leader in this House, he would not have given utterance to the sentiments which pervaded his whole speech. The five years which have rolled around

since this question came before the public have been occupied in going through the courts from one appeal to another, and, when he tells us that there should have been no difference of opinion as to the powers and authority of the province of Manitoba he forgets—or if he did not forget, he failed to give expression to the fact—that these differences of opinion existed in the highest courts of the land; and he should also have told us that when this question first loomed up, his great leader, the Hon. Edward Blake, in the House of Commons, introduced a resolution to remove the question altogether from the political arena, and take it out of the power of any legislature to declare that interference with the rights of the minority in any province should be dealt with by the administration. His resolution, so clear and distinct in its character, was accepted by the leaders of the opposition, and by Sir John Macdonald, and all parties believed that this question of sentiment would have been removed from the political arena altogether and left to the courts to decide. He is not in accord, either, with the sentiments expressed so often by the hon. leader of the Opposition in the lower House. Scarcely a speech has that hon. gentleman made in which he has not affirmed strongly his belief in what are termed provincial rights. My hon. friend says, and I fully concur with him in the sentiment, that it is with the greatest reluctance that any government should interfere with the rights and privileges given to a province under the constitution which governs it. Mr. Blake, when he moved the resolution to which I refer, declared that he had but one object in view; that he had no desire to embarrass the government at the time, his only wish being to avoid the introduction of a disturbing element. He had no desire to embarrass the government of the day, but seeing the difficulties which were arising in Manitoba upon this very school question, he proposed, as a true statesman, to remove it from the arena of politics.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—No.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—It was in 1890, the very year that this Manitoba Act was passed. As my hon. friend on my left says, it was one month after the passing of that Act. Mr. Blake saw the difficulties arising—saw the political animosity that