

cannot agree with his church. He does not know what is necessary to maintain the religion and peace of the people of this country any more than he knows how to retain our trade and commerce. A short time ago he contended that this commission was only a subterfuge; yet when he spoke in Montreal it was the chief plank in his platform. Let me say, Sir, that we do not require the cathode rays to see through the chief plank in the plank of the Liberal-Conservative party. Our plank on this school question is transparent, we can see it at first glance. Sir, I look around this chamber and observe the members who come from the province of Ontario, that great province which has contributed largely to the reputation of Canada, a province which has produced magnificent institutions, a province which has turned out great men, and let me say that we have a faithful phalanx in this House to-day, we have got men of integrity, of uprightness, who are able to see correctly through this great problem. No doubt they have considered this question well, and when the time comes for them to give a vote on it, I trust they will consider well what they are doing, and that they will not be content to leave this life without making an excellent record. Sir, the man who is afraid of local interests, who thinks he will not gain his election if he votes for this Bill, is afraid of doing his duty in the interests of this great country, and in the interest of the maintenance of its institutions. Sir, a short time ago, the leader of the Opposition, when he was accompanied by his man Friday, the member for L'Islet (Mr. Tarte), asked what was the policy of the Liberal-Conservative party upon this Manitoba school question, he said: Our position is defined and placed beyond doubt. But, where is the leader of the Opposition to-day, with his amendment for the six months' hold? He says the Conservative party have asked him to give them some information, to formulate a policy for them. What an absurd idea. Did the Conservative Government ever ask the Reformers to formulate a policy for them? No, Sir, far from it. They did not even consult him in drawing up the Remedial Bill, nor did they consult him in some other great measures they have placed before this country. The leader of the Opposition says he wants justice for his countrymen and for the minority in the province of Quebec. I should like to know if the minority in the province of Quebec are not asking to-day for justice to the minority in Manitoba, through the hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, who represents the Protestant minority of Quebec in this Government? Their interests have been protected by confederation, and in the course they are taking on this question, they are protecting their interests in the future. But is the course of the Reform party on this question likely to benefit the Protestant minority in Quebec? No,

they are sowing the seeds of dissension, they are spreading ideas which, if acted upon, will sap the very foundations of confederation, which the fathers of that measure worked so hard to accomplish. The leader of the Opposition says there must be no coercion for Manitoba. Sir, let us consider this question, and reflect upon where it originated, in Manitoba, that new province, which requires all the assistance we can possibly give it in order to promote that prosperity that it is now enjoying; let us remember that it was the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Martin) was one of the prime actors in destroying separate schools, and that the member for Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) was one of the prime actors in destroying the dual language in that province. When Lord Dufferin was in Canada, some twenty years ago, and when he visited Winnipeg on his way to the Pacific coast, he used these words:

Manitoba, from its geographical position and its peculiar characteristics may be regarded as the keystone of that mighty arch of sister provinces which spans the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

And to think that this mighty arch is to have the key-stone knocked out of it by the promotion of measures that tend to sap the very fidelity of the people who live in that portion of the Dominion. I am glad to know that they are so well represented as they are by the hon. member of French nationality who sits on the other side of the House (Mr. LaRivière), who has championed so strenuously and ably the cause of education that, rely upon it, so long as he is here looking after their interests they suffer nothing from want of advocacy of their case.

I am embarrassed, not with the meagreness, but with the richness and fulness of this subject. I should like to dwell at greater length upon it, but the ground has been gone over so thoroughly, I have no desire to detain you at any greater length. When I listened to the bright and laconic observations of the hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Foster), I was pleased beyond measure to observe the broad and statesman-like views he advocated. I would recommend every one, whether in the House or out of it, to read and ponder carefully every line of that admirable address, which is a credit to this Chamber and a credit to the public life of Canada, showing that we have growing up in this country a class of men whose attainments mark a progressive development in intellectual capacity which would be a credit to any country. In material progress we have something to show, and we trust to have more. Mixed up and divided as we are, I say it is extremely desirable that all differences of creed and nationality should be put on one side. For it is only by thorough agreement that we can promote those great principles that we inherited when the