

regarding  
v, other-  
support  
gentleman  
(y), what  
duce the  
d: I am  
ter; but  
st as to  
the future,  
ree politi-  
to?

n. gentle-  
in North

, I would  
hon. gen-  
on to say  
the papers  
ively, his  
e elector-  
cord, be-  
ights in  
question.  
on on the  
ey know  
tell you  
the same  
l. Now,  
nd? Was  
ich would  
a, or was  
stand the  
en in the  
nd Quebec  
e of con-  
separate  
ween the  
stay, and  
never sup-  
r province  
That was  
gentleman  
n that re-  
m. But  
ut plainly  
Ontario:  
ed legis-  
ought to  
have been  
y a thou-  
s that an  
fairly en-  
ible senti-  
? No; I  
Cardwell,  
me there?  
candidate  
ne out and  
to support  
ment up-  
ation, was  
votes; he  
life is con-  
st in that  
leman who  
medial leg-  
ort of the  
l, and pub-

lic sentiment declared against interference with Manitoba. Then the Government went down to Montreal Centre and tested public sentiment there. But did public sentiment endorse the legislation they propose to-day? No, Sir, but the candidate who was put up to oppose them now sits in this House in opposition to the Government. Then they tested public sentiment in Jacques Cartier, and met with the same response. Look also at the result of their efforts in Verchères. In fact, in almost every constituency where they have tested public sentiment, up to the present time, they have been defeated. They went down to Cape Breton to elect the hon. Secretary of State, and by a herculean effort, by dint of exercising all the power they could bring to bear, they did manufacture sufficient public sentiment to endorse their present course. But I say there are many men of intelligence to-day who, as I read in the public press, are observing the signs of the times as indicated in the way we judge public sentiment, and who have come to the conclusion that the voice of the country is against the Government in this attempt to interfere with the rights of Manitoba. There is no mistaking it, and if hon. gentlemen constituting the Government do not believe it to-day, a time will come when they will recognize it, when at the elections the people will speak with a voice so strong that they cannot misunderstand it, and many members who now fail to recognize that voice, as indicated by public sentiment, will be left in the minority after the votes have been counted, and they will then recognize that they misunderstood public sentiment and acted contrary to it.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

### After Recess.

Mr. SPROULE. Mr. Speaker, in continuing the debate on this most important subject, I may refer for a few seconds to the portion of it under consideration when you left the Chair at six o'clock. I was endeavouring to give then what, according to my judgment, was public opinion and public sentiment on this measure, and how far they were in accord with the action of the Government in dealing with this most important measure. There is no doubt that no question which has engaged the attention of Parliament for a great many years in this country is regarded as of as much importance as the one before the House to-day. On this question above all others, you might naturally look to the press of the country for an exposition of public sentiment, and also as manifested by public gatherings, through church assemblies and similar channels. I was endeavouring to show that if we examine the press of the country there can be no mistake as to what public senti-

ment is, because while the press supporting the Government in their policy, their National Policy, their measures relating to the fast steamship line and the development of trade, and on almost every other line of policy which has been under consideration during the last fifteen or sixteen years, those journals have been notably silent as regards saying anything endorsing the measure now under the consideration of the House. On the contrary, there is scarcely a Conserva- tive paper in the country but has given out some discordant sound, some note of warn- ing, some suggestion which might induce the Government to abandon what very many regard as an insane course they are fol- lowing at the present time and desist from seeking to force on an unwilling province a Bill that will take away rights that every province has heretofore enjoyed, which the province of Manitoba has heretofore enjoy- ed, and which in the opinion of the large majority of the people it should enjoy in the future. So far as my judgment goes, there can be no mistake as to what public opinion is. Then if the Government are running counter to public opinion and there- by lose the support of their own friends, they should not blame their friends, but rather blame their own blindness that leads them in a channel which compels their friends to desert them.

Why do I oppose this Bill at the present time? I oppose it because it is making a serious inroad on principles which have been heretofore regarded as sound. What are those principles? This Bill is interfering in the first place, with the rights of the province. There is no one who is acquainted with the history of Canada and has watched closely affairs during the last twelve or fif- teen years who failed to regard with a good deal of suspicion anything that raises the question of provincial rights or causes anti- agonism between any province and the Fed- eral Government, because we have had sev- eral fights in this country on that line, and the lesson taught is to avoid in future as much as possible any interference with the rights of the provinces. Only a few years ago we had a very great struggle on provincial rights, it occurring on the Streams Bill. Two or three enactments were passed by the provincial legislature. They were disallowed by the Dominion Government on the question as to the right of a province to control streams within its own terri- tories. What was the result? When the question was taken to the courts the high- est court of the Empire decided against the Dominion. In the meantime a very strong feeling had been aroused. The agita- tion that had been carried on against the Dominion Government for interfering with what a great many regarded as the rights of the province had created a feeling of antagonism against the Dominion Govern- ment, which threatened to be very serious. But for the fact that the highest court