

Mr. Donohoe, who appeared before the Privy Council against his co-religionists. He has been provided for, but it does not appear that the parties affected by this settlement are at all satisfied with its terms, and until the rights and privileges for which they contend are restored to them, it is unlikely that they will be satisfied, and the hon. gentleman opposite need not lay the flattering unction to their souls that the question can be settled until they have made peace with the minority of Manitoba. We were told when the Conservative government had to deal with this question that the facts were not ascertained, that it was foolish on the part of the government of Canada to attempt to deal with this question without ascertaining the facts. How could they know what the exact difficulties of the situation in Manitoba were until they had taken evidence on that point, and they said that as soon as they came into power, they were going to appoint a royal commission for the purpose of going to Manitoba and visiting these schools and meeting the people who were interested and examining them on their oath and taking the necessary evidence, in order to find out what the exact nature of the remedy should be. Mr. Laurier went so far as to say that on the very day he got into power he would appoint two commissions, one to go to the United States, and the other to Manitoba, and that the leader of this House Sir Oliver Mowat, would be chairman of the commission to be appointed to visit Manitoba and take evidence on this school question. The whole thing was outlined. My hon. friend had achieved some credit among the Catholics of Ontario for standing up for them, as it was believed he had done, in connection with the separate schools. His name was used with the Catholic people, and they were told that this man, who was their friend, would be chairman of the commission, and they could rest assured that what he had done for the Catholics of Ontario he would do for their friends in Manitoba. I do not know why this plan did not materialize. I do not know why my hon. friend was not placed at the head of a commission of that kind to take evidence in Manitoba on this question. But we know that such a commission was not appointed, whether it was my hon. friend felt that he was unequal to the task and that the sunny ways of patriotism were more effectual than cold facts that he could

elicit by going up there, he was not appointed, and Mr. Tarte, another member of the government, went up there instead. I think Mr. Tarte did visit one school up there in which there was some little trouble on the question of the commissariat between the teacher and himself. I believe the inquiry he made on that occasion was his only inquiry with regard to the state of the schools in Manitoba. The promises which had been made with regard to the appointment of a commission and the making of an inquiry have all been cast to the wind. Mr. Tarte went up there and made some reports to his colleagues; Mr. Greenway came down here and the result is this paragraph or two providing that there may be religious instruction between half past three and four o'clock in certain schools. That is what it all ends in. These people contended that by the constitution they had some privileges, which privileges they claim have been taken away. The Lords of the Privy Council of England found that their contention was right; promises were made by the hon. gentleman's leader, the Hon. Mr. Laurier, that he would restore the rights of the minority in Manitoba. He was not going to do it by coercion, but he would do it more fully than the late government proposed to do it by the remedial bill. Instead of that, here we have this paltry provision which I am told by parties who have more experience in such matters than I have myself will be found perfectly useless and calculated, if put into effect at all, to create in the minds of the children a repugnance against religion altogether, because they will be kept in half an hour longer than other children. It will create a distaste for religion, and instead of being a help, as it should be it will be a detriment. The leader of this House yesterday denied that there was any understanding between the government of Canada and the government of Manitoba with regard to the initiation of this troublesome question. He does not dispute the fact that the government of Manitoba threw this apple of discord into the politics of this country by passing the School Act of 1890, but he denies that there was any understanding between themselves and the Federal government at any time during the course of the events. With regard to that subject I will take the word of my hon. friend as speaking for himself. He only came into federal politics