

rendered in favour of a Catholic country and against a Protestant country? No, Sir. There is sufficient breadth of mind in Germany and in many other countries; there is sufficient breadth of mind in this country to enable the Protestants to realize the beneficent effect of the Papacy in this world. I do not say that the Pope should interfere between Catholics or Protestants in civil matters, nor has he attempted to do so. Sir, one of the great statesmen of France, one of the greatest philosophers of this century, who was a devoted Protestant and at one time Prime Minister of his country, Guizot, said once that the Catholic Church was a great school of respect. Let not my Protestant fellow-countrymen fear because we Catholics desire to exercise the right of going to the head of our church to settle difficulties that may arise among ourselves. Let not our Protestant friends in this House be uneasy. The more we are attached to the Holy See as Catholics, the greater our respect for the rules of our church, the deeper will be our attachment, let me assure our Protestant friends, to the political authority of this Empire, the deeper will be our attachment to the civil rights of Canada and of Great Britain. The hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) made us a very fine offer, as he often does. Whenever we have difficulty with our priests he suggests that we should send them to jail.

Mr. SPROULE. I wish emphatically to contradict that, and I am surprised that the hon. gentleman should attempt to misrepresent what I did say. I said that in case of interference on the part of the priesthood with the political or civil rights of the people, we have laws upon our statute-book punishing such interference, and I asked why the Prime Minister did not invoke that law.

Mr. BOURASSA. Well, the hon. gentleman has explained himself much better on this occasion than he did before. He has simply said in fifty words what I made him say in ten. Sir, what is that interference which the clergy of Quebec have been accused of exercising during the last election? Certain bishops of the province of Quebec and some members of the clergy, took a certain stand in the last election, and held that Catholic voters could not vote for Liberal candidates. They based their interference upon the ground that it was the duty of Catholics to vote for remedial legislation, and that the just rights of the Catholic minority in Manitoba on the school question could not be restored to them unless some remedial legislation was passed. There was no division amongst the clergy of the province of Quebec or amongst the laymen, as to the rights of the Catholic minority, nor as to the duty of the Government to restore them in some way. There was no division upon that point then, and there is no division upon that point to-day. The only dif-

ference of opinion that existed was as to the interpretation of the constitution in regard to that question. Let me quote for the benefit of my hon. friend a letter that was addressed by Cardinal Ledochowski, Secretary of the Propaganda, to the bishops of the province of Quebec, in which he urged them not to ask the Dominion of Canada to do anything contrary to the sovereignty of the British Empire, or that would bring them into conflict in any way with their Protestant fellow-citizens.

Mr. BERGERON. Will you read the letter?

Mr. BOURASSA. I have only the French text of the letter, but I will read the paragraph, and afterwards give the translation:

Maintenant que, en vertu de la décision récente du Conseil privé de la Reine en Angleterre, le gouvernement fédéral est certainement pourvu de l'autorité requise pour traiter cette très grave question, il y a lieu d'espérer qu'elle trouvera enfin cette heureuse solution que réclament et les droits les mieux établis et le bien de la religion et de l'Etat.

Now that, in virtue of the recent decision of the Queen's Privy Council in England, the Federal Government is certainly provided with the requisite authority to treat this very important question, there is reason to hope that a solution will finally be found which will be in accordance with well-established rights, as well as with the welfare of religion and of the state.

A difference of opinion was manifested among the members of the clergy in Quebec as to the application to be given to that decision of the Privy Council. All that the Catholics of Quebec were asked to do was to vote for men who would put in force the judgment of the Privy Council. But we Liberals claimed the right to decide for ourselves as to what means should be taken to apply that judgment, and to secure to the minority the rights which we believed they had been deprived of. We claimed that liberty then, and we claim it now. I must apologize to the House if I touch upon certain points that are perhaps not interesting to all the members of the House, but I do so in order to explain what was our position. We have now the proof that our contention was good, because in the encyclical to which the member for Beauharnois has referred, it is stated in plain terms that we are at perfect liberty in respect to the means to be taken to procure a settlement of that question.

Mr. BERGERON. Is that settlement accepted by the encyclical?

Mr. BOURASSA. The hon. member for Beauharnois has treated that settlement with great severity. He has been more Catholic than the Pope. But I doubt his sincerity.

Mr. BERGERON. That is not an answer. I want to know from my hon. friend whether that settlement has been