

our national undertaking, the establishment of an enduring basis in this western hemisphere of a British colony, whose possibilities and potentialities justify our aspirations to see Canada the most powerful, progressive and patriotic of all the great possessions with which Great Britain has girdled the earth. (Cheers.)

MR. LAURIER APPROVED.

"Sir, in the spirit of peace and union the invitation was worded which brings me here to-night. In the same spirit my political leader, Wilfrid Laurier, a true man—(cheers)—a good man, a great man, approved of my presence here, that I might give expression, however feebly, to his belief in the efficacy of conciliation rather than force as a means of adjusting this delicate question, and I feel sure that in the same spirit will be conducted the deliberations and deliverance of this great assembly. (Applause.)

"Sir, what is the problem before us? In February, 1895, the Privy Council of England decided that the Dominion Parliament had power, within certain limits, to legislate in respect of grievances complained of on behalf of the Roman Catholics in Manitoba. In that same month the Dominion Parliament purported to create themselves into a court, and summoned the Province of Manitoba before them, as you would an ordinary offender before a Police Magistrate, and, with an alacrity that has not characterized all their administrative acts, did, within less than two weeks after the adjournment of their pretended court, and without having first adopted any conciliatory course towards the people of Manitoba, and without even having allowed them time to consider what was best to be done, and without inquiring into the facts and circumstances, and without seriously considering whether Dominion interference could accomplish more good than harm, and without having first adopted a diplomatic course with a view to friendly settlement, bluntly and unfortunately issued a peremptory remedial order against Manitoba, ordering that Province to legislate in a certain way, and in default, threatening it with Dominion interference.

Well, sir, whether the framers of that order were desirous of having it complied with, or of provoking hostility or refusal, I do not pretend to say, but that order was submitted to a special meeting of the Legislature of Manitoba, which dealt with it by resolution on the 19th of June last. I will not read at length from that resolution, but suffice it to say that the Legislature of Manitoba did not, even under this