

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: Then I cannot speak. I have only a few words to say, and the honourable gentleman can follow me.

Hon. Mr. LANDRY: If the motion is not withdrawn with the understanding that the debate will be closed now, there is no use in withdrawing it. We will adjourn the debate to another day.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Adjourn the debate to another day.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: I am going to withdraw my motion. All I ask is that the French people in Ontario be treated in the same way as the English-speaking people are treated in Quebec. That is all I have to say.

The motion to adjourn the debate was withdrawn.

Hon. Mr. SPROULE: I did not intend to say anything on this subject, but owing to the course of the discussion and the number of questions involved in it, it seems to me that a member from the province of Ontario ought to know more about the question than the average member, is justified in saying something upon it.

In the first place, in my judgment a discussion of this kind in this House at the present time is very much out of order. The rule is laid down—and it must be known to the honourable gentleman who started this discussion, because he is a comparatively old parliamentarian—that it is not the practice to import questions into this House and discuss them while they are before the courts. This question is before the courts, and therefore in my judgment it is very much out of order and very improper for us to discuss it here.

In the second place, the question of education is one which undoubtedly pertains to the exclusive rights of the province, unless there is involved in it an element which brings it within the rights of other provinces. That is the way in which minority rights are interfered with. As this is a matter of education, and as it is being dealt with by the province in such a measure as the people of the province believe they have an undoubted and exclusive right to deal with it, it seems to me it would be very much out of place for the Federal Parliament to take it up, discuss it or interfere with the rights of the provinces in connection with it. Let us reverse the situation. Let us suppose that this a question that pertains to the undoubted rights of the province of Quebec. Let the question be brought into this House, and let an agita-

tion be raised and be kept up from time to time. Such action only continues the disturbance in the country and draws public attention to it. It improperly accentuates the matter and creates a feeling that would otherwise not exist. I say again that this question should not be imported into this House except at a proper time and under proper provocation, which is not to be found in the question that is now engaging the attention of this House. The importation of these disturbing questions only keeps up trouble, and ought to be avoided as far as possible. This question is always raised under the plea of rights denied. Very often claims are put forward with regard to rights which are not proper claims at all. We believe that in connection with this matter there are put forward many claims which should not be put forward.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: Who is to be the judge?

Hon. Mr. SPROULE: We are told that they are minority rights. We admit the minority rights which are granted under the British North America Act; but we deny that these minority rights should be so insisted upon as to interfere with and prevent the possibility of the majority rights being enjoyed by the people. This is exactly what we claim is being done in connection with this question. If the minority rights are enforced as the minority desires them to be enforced, this prevents the possibility of the majority enjoying their undoubted rights.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: The enforcing of a minority right never interfered with a majority right.

Hon. Mr. SPROULE: I have the floor, and only claim—

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: That shows a lot of intelligence.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Order, order.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: That shows a lot of intelligence.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: Order.

Hon. Mr. SPROULE: When I have the floor I claim to have the right to express my views, and to have the common courtesy of quietness on the part of honourable gentlemen extended to me.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN: I did not make the row.

Hon. Mr. SPROULE: What is the situation in Ontario? If time permitted, and if it were necessary, I could quote sworn