

system worked ill among them. But, smarting in connection with the special grievance of the minority in Quebec, the Protestant minority, failing to make that a troublesome and dangerous question to the confederation, we find the hon. gentleman (Mr. McCarthy) at Portage la Prairie, in August, 1889, outlining the platform which he, to give him credit for his courage, did not delay in putting before this Parliament soon after. He said there :

There was something for the politicians to live for. We have the power to save this country from fratricidal strife. The power to make this a British country in fact as it is in name. In order to accomplish this, other issues for the moment must give way. We have got to bend our energies and let it be understood in every constituency, that whether a man call himself Grit or Tory, Conservative or Reformer, his record is clear, his principles are sound, and no influence at Ottawa will induce him to betray his great trust. The speaker was glad to inform the meeting that the poor sleepy Protestant minority of Quebec were at last awake. He trusted before many weeks to address a meeting in Montreal, and to realize that that minority is sound to the core on this question. There is a separate school question here, and in the North-west, and there is the French school question in Ontario. We have all work to do in our various localities ; let us do that work before we seek to traverse fields, before more difficulty is to become encountered, because vested rights have become solidified.

And in the year 1890, in this House, he was not ashamed to say, after our experience of our French-speaking fellow-countrymen, after he had seen the pride, and heard the boast of the Dominion of Canada and the mother country in regard to the services the French Canadians have rendered the Empire, in regard to what they have done for this country, its constitution, its laws, and its literature ; he (Mr. McCarthy) was not ashamed to say, in the face of the leader of the Opposition himself :

Well, hon. gentlemen, remember that when this country was ceded to the British there were no more than 60,000 or 65,000 French inhabitants ; and that I think included those on the banks of Illinois. However that may be, had a different policy been pursued, had a different policy been adopted, to induce them—not by any harsh means, not by adopting an aggravating policy—to speak the English tongue : I want to know, whether to-day, instead of having a dangerous element in our midst which was becoming more pronounced, and which is calculated to rend this Dominion in twain ; I would like to know, whether we would have these things to-day if the policy I have indicated had been pursued.

Now, how did the leader of the Opposition meet the member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) on that occasion ? Did he (Mr. Laurier) join forces with him (Mr. McCarthy) as he does to-day, in the most essential feature of that hon. gentleman's campaign against the French, and against the Catholics, and against the Catholic schools ? No

but as well became him (Mr. Laurier) at the time, he rose in indignation, and on the floor of this House, he pointed at the member for North Simcoe, the finger of scorn. He abused the member for North Simcoe, not merely for what he was then advocating. He (Mr. Laurier) admitted that the abolition of the French language in the North-west was comparatively a small affair, but dragging to the front the utterances of the member for North Simcoe, at Barrie, the leader of the Opposition pointed out to this House just what the purpose, and just what the ultimate aim was, of that disturber of the Queen's peace. The leader of the Opposition then said that this declaration of the member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy), when he asked that the French language be prohibited and put down in the North-west, to use his own language :

Involved a declaration of war against the French race.

The leader of the Opposition resented the epithets that had been used by the member for North Simcoe, his present ally, against his race. I can now remember the language of the leader of the Opposition then. He resented the statement of the member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) that the French constituted "a bastard nationality" on this continent, and he said that the member for North Simcoe dare not use the language in this House, language which I will quote, and which he (Mr. Laurier) then quoted, in regard to the race of which the hon. gentleman (Mr. Laurier) is an eloquent exponent. This was the language used by the member for North Simcoe :

A race which begins and ends with those who profess the Roman Catholic faith, and which now threatens the dismemberment of Canada.

The leader of the Opposition then denounced the hon. member for Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) and his comparatively harmless Bill, because he said, "It was only a preliminary skirmish, soon to be followed by a general onslaught upon the whole French race in Canada."

And, forsooth, while that Bill had to be stamped out though it was comparatively insignificant, the hon. member for Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) to-day, as he sits in his chair, rejoices and chuckles that the second great article of his programme, namely, his attack upon the separate schools, his attack on the French and the Catholics of Canada, is being supported by the leader of the Opposition, and that his horrible work is being done by the hon. gentleman (Mr. Laurier), who, in 1890, denounced the first item of his (Mr. McCarthy's) programme, as only a preliminary canter. The hon. member for North Simcoe has been outspoken. I want the leader of the Opposition to mark well the object of his leader for, after all, the member for North Simcoe is to-day the leader of the chief of the Opposition on this question. The country recognizes that. The