

vative paper which is defending them and their policy in endeavouring to pass the Bill that is before the House. If you go from Prince Edward Island in the east to Victoria in the west, and look over the Conservative papers in this country, I think you might count on the five fingers of your hand all those that come out and give a straightforward support of this measure, and of the policy of the Government in attempting to pass it. Then I take the independent press of the country. I might mention a few of them, but they are so well known to this House and to the people that it is scarcely necessary for me to do so. But it would not be out of place to ask. In reference to those papers that have supported the Government so strongly in the past, where are they to-day? The only one that is giving even a half-hearted support to their policy is the "Mail and Empire," of Toronto; and yet it has never, so far as my judgment enables me to understand it, adduced any respectable argument either to defend or justify their course to-day. If we leave out of account the "Mail and Empire," where do we find the rest of the papers? Where do we find the "World," the next greatest exponent of the principles of the Conservative party? We find that it is arrayed against the Government's course on this question. Where do we find the Toronto "News"? Where do we find the Toronto "Telegram"? Where do we find the Toronto "Star"? Where do we find the Hamilton "Spectator"? I might go over the whole list, and I find in almost every instance that those papers are arrayed against the party, and they believe that they are voicing public sentiment. Then, if they are voicing public sentiment, how can the Government to-day be in accord with that public sentiment? If it be the duty of the Government to reflect public sentiment in their legislation, then I ask, how can they square this legislation with the sentiment of the country, as expressed by these papers? Now, we are told by the hon. member for North Grey that in order to ascertain what public sentiment is, the Government go out into the country and hold political meetings. Well, if I take the expression of the public meetings that have been held in this country, do I find any stronger evidence of public sentiment being with them than it is as expressed through the press? I can assure you that the verdict of the people is to the contrary, as expressed in public meetings that have been held for the last two or three years in every part of the country. Why, they have scarcely gone upon a single platform and dared to say that in the end they were bound to pass remedial legislation, and asked the electorate of this country to endorse it, and where the electorate have endorsed it. When they went into North Ontario and put up their candidate, what were they obliged to do? They were obliged to have their candidate keep from the knowledge

of the electorate his intention regarding remedial legislation, as they knew, otherwise, that he could not receive the support of the people. I ask the hon. gentleman from North Ontario (Mr. McGillivray), what course did he take in trying to induce the electorate to support him? He said: I am not going to be pledged in this matter; but I point you to my record in the past as to what you may expect from me in the future. Have I not gone through two or three political fights in the province of Ontario?

Mr. MCGILLIVRAY. The hon. gentleman is mistaking my position in North Ontario.

Mr. SPROULE. In what respect, I would like to know, am I misstating the hon. gentleman's position? I was going on to say that according to what I read in the papers which reported him pretty extensively, his language was to this effect: The electorate of this country know my record, because I have fought two political fights in provincial campaigns on this question. They know the stand I have taken on the question of separate schools; they know what I have said. Now, then, I tell you that I am standing to-day upon the same ground that I have always stood. Now, Mr. Speaker, what was that ground? Was it in support of a remedial law which would force separate schools on Manitoba, or was it against it? Why, if I understand the ground the hon. gentleman has taken in the past, it was that when Ontario and Quebec entered into a compact at the time of confederation, they accepted these separate schools as an arrangement between the two provinces. They are here to stay, and we cannot help it. But I shall never support their extension into any other province or any other part of the country. That was the record upon which that hon. gentleman sought election, and it was upon that record that the people accepted him. But had that hon. gentleman come out plainly and told the electorate of North Ontario: I am going down to vote for remedial legislation, I am assured by men who ought to know the situation, that he would have been buried under a majority of nearly a thousand votes in his own riding. Is that an evidence that the Government are fairly entitled to accept as voicing public sentiment in favour of this legislation? No; I say it is not. Then if I go to Cardwell, what does public sentiment tell me there? It tells me that the Government candidate who had apparently, at least, come out and admitted that he was prepared to support the policy laid down by the Government upon this question of remedial legislation, was buried under a hopeless mass of votes; he was buried so far as his political life is concerned, never to rise again, at least in that constituency. But the hon. gentleman who frankly opposed the policy of remedial legislation, was accorded the support of the majority of the voters of Cardwell, and pub-

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