

affected by the increase or reduction of the tax, it was at once apparent that they contemplated receding from the position they had taken before the elections, and what has occurred since then amply justifies the opinion I entertained with regard to their course. I feel there has been a vast amount of damage done to the commercial and agricultural interests of this country, and to our people generally, by this long delay and by the uncertain sound which the government have been making with regard to their tariff policy. This session has been unduly delayed. We have met at a time of the year which they were never tired of condemning when the Conservatives no matter what reason they had to give, called a late session, and now when there are grave reasons for an early session and an early announcement of the policy, they have pursued a course very different from that which they said was the proper course to be pursued when they were in opposition. My hon. friends on the other side of the House, the mover and seconder of the Address and the leader of the government himself, expressed in their speeches very great satisfaction that the Manitoba school question had been amicably settled. I have been reading the newspapers and watching the current of events, and I fail to find any evidence of a settlement at all. It is true that some conference has taken place between the government of Canada and the government of Manitoba. We have been told of that in the Speech from the Throne, and certain terms have been laid on the table of this House and a bill is passing through the legislature of Manitoba on the question. The idea when a great controversy existed between the minority and majority in Manitoba that a settlement has been reached without consulting or trying to satisfy the minority at all, is a contradiction in terms. I fail to see that there has been a settlement of that question and evidence is abundant on the other hand, that the question is still unsettled. It is a troubler of Israel as much now as it ever was. I feel that the mover and the seconder of the Address had very small ground when they congratulated the leader of the House on what they called the settlement of this Manitoba school question. The seconder of the Address said that this settlement or agreement was approved of by the electorate of Canada.

What evidence have we of that? I have no doubt some hon. gentlemen will say, as I have heard it stated in another place, that two elections which have been recently held, one in the county of Wright and the other in the county of Bonaventure, in the province of Quebec in which the government were successful by large majorities, is evidence that the Manitoba school question is settled to the satisfaction at least of the province of Quebec. But what is the evidence that is coming in from day to day with regard even to the carrying of these very counties? We find that the gentlemen who contested these elections and their friends, and even members of the government themselves, declined to say to the people of Quebec at those elections that there was a complete and perfect and final settlement of the question. On the contrary, they said—the premier himself said in Montreal not long ago—that it was only the first instalment, and Mr. Guité who was elected the other day for Bonaventure, told the people that he would work hard to get greater advantage for the minority in Manitoba. He led the people there to believe that the matter was not settled yet, but that the good work would still go on. If that is so, in place of these elections being a verdict in favour of the so-called settlement they are rather a verdict to the contrary, and prove that the government are still holding out hopes to those who sympathize with the minority in Manitoba that still further concessions will be made to their friends in that province. The only election that is really important with regard to this question was the local election in St. Boniface, Manitoba, which was brought about by the resignation of Mr. Prendergast, one of the sunny ways of the government was to provide a judgeship for Mr. Prendergast who had been one of the strong advocates, in the local legislature, of the rights of the minority. An appropriation was put in the estimates last year which it was surmised, when it passed through the House, was to provide a judgeship and a salary for that gentleman with the hope that he would advise the acceptance of anything that Mr. Laurier would provide for the minority, and in that way they applied the sunny ways of patriotism to settling that question. There was a settlement in Mr. Prendergast's case no doubt. There was a settlement even in the case of