

that Catholics and Protestants met on the same platform to fight on behalf of the minority? It is this, I never looked upon that question as a religious one. I looked upon it as a constitutional question, and we had the decision of the highest authority in the judgment of the highest tribunal in the British Empire, a tribunal far removed from our political strife, that under the constitution these people had been deprived of rights which should be restored to them. Sir, if I understand rightly the meaning of our federal compact, unless you can prove to the minorities, Catholic or Protestant, that that compact is comprehensive enough to protect their rights, I say confederation is a failure, and cannot meet the wants which it was devised to meet. I place my opinion upon record, that I fought on behalf of the minority of Manitoba because I thought it involved a question affecting the future of this country. I considered that what had occurred in Manitoba might take place in other provinces of the Dominion, and unless the people of Canada were satisfied that the provisions of the constitution would be applied impartially to every race and creed, to every province and portion of the Dominion, the people would lose confidence in the constitution and it would prove a failure; and I fear not to affirm that here. We know well that within a few years public opinion has been growing in favour of Imperialism, I mean in the sense of a closer union between the colonies and the mother country. I am an Imperialist to this extent, that I desire the closest possible union between the colonies and England. I know not what Providence has in store for Canada, but I sincerely hope that the connecting link between this Dominion and the Empire will ever be maintained. At no period of the world's history was a people more completely protected, or no country has developed more rapidly than Canada as a portion of the British Empire. It has not been necessary to spend the money of this country in maintaining a consular and diplomatic service, in building fleets to enforce our treaties, and without treaties we cannot expect to become a commercial nation. Under the British flag our commerce is respected the world over, and thus we are enabled to apply the resources of this Dominion to the construction of railways connecting the eastern portion of this country with the Pacific province, thereby opening new territories, and attracting capital from the old world for investment here. Lately I read a report on the development of Rossland in British Columbia, and if half of the progress reported is true, there is certainly a future for that province as regards mineral development that will prove unequalled. Mr. Speaker, I affirm that my position on the Manitoba school question is one based on the constitution under which I am proud to live. Any hon.

member, be he Catholic or Protestant, who comes down to Quebec will see people of the two different races and different religions living side by side in peace and harmony, prepared to help each other when the time of trial comes. One day it may be a Protestant helping a Catholic and the next day a Catholic helping the Protestant; in fact, Quebec is a model in this respect not only for the other provinces of the Dominion but for any country where different races live side by side. It is a model province for the most perfect accord exists among its people and there the school system is understood so perfectly that it is impossible that any trouble should arise between the different religious elements. If the constitution recognizes, as it does, that certain educational rights had been granted to the minority of Manitoba. I shall not be satisfied until those which have been taken away are restored, and I should have been pleased to learn from the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat on what lines he wishes to settle that very difficult question. Sir, it is important to the whole country to obtain this information. This question has been agitating the country too long already, and it seems to me that all the facts connected with the issue are perfectly well known, but I must admit that it is impossible to ascertain from the hon. gentleman's remarks on what possible lines hon. gentlemen opposite can be brought together to agree upon a line of policy. For instance, the hon. member for Montmagny (Mr. Choquette) in his manifesto on the eve of the election, said:

The removal of the Manitoba school question from federal politics would be a blessing, but we must wait awhile before we know whether the amicable settlement which Mr. Laurier promises will meet the demands (of Mr. Choquette).

In his recent manifesto the member for Montmagny declared:

For a settlement of the question of the schools in a manner efficient and practical, and on the basis of recognizing and of making the local authorities of Manitoba recognize the rights and privileges of which those authorities have despoiled our co-religionists in their province.

If the question was settled according to the policy enunciated by that hon. gentleman, I should be quite satisfied; if the rights of which the Manitoba minority were deprived were restored to them, I should be perfectly happy. Satisfied as I was in regard to this policy, I read to-day in the Montreal "Gazette" a statement regarding a different policy, and with the permission of the House I will read a letter issued by the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy) which appears in that journal. It is as follows:—

Mr. Dalton McCarthy, who had the unusual honour of being elected for two constituencies, North Simcoe and Brandon, Man., resigned the latter seat in the House of Commons to-day.