

there is no necessity for such an organization as this to-day. I do not think that in Canada, at the end of the 19th century, there is any necessity for an oath-bound, secret society of this kind to maintain the rights and liberties of Protestants. They are perfectly safe. Protestants have a very large majority in the country, and they are able to take care of themselves. Even at the end of the 18th century, when the organization was first established, it might be supposed that there was some excuse for their existence, because at that time the air was full of revolution. The French Revolution had just taken place, and there was a great deal of more or less disloyal feeling current in the United Kingdom; and the Catholics, who composed the vast majority of the Irish people, were looking for some of the rights of citizens. Naturally, the people who had the exclusive rights in their hands did not wish to share them with those who had them not, and the object of the establishment of the Orange association was to prevent the majority, who had been kept under before, from acquiring rights which they ought to have. That is human nature. The people who have exclusive privileges necessarily and naturally try to prevent other people from sharing them with them; but that is not the case in Canada. In Canada we all have equal rights.

HON. MR. CLEMOW—That is what we want.

HON. MR. POWER—The Catholics in this country are in a small minority in every Province except Quebec, and in that Province the Protestant minority are treated with the utmost liberality. No one who has a reputation that he has any regard for is prepared to father the statement that the Protestant minority in the Province of Quebec are not treated with the utmost liberality. Almost the only question as to which differences of religion have any effect in Canada is the question of education, and as regards that most important and vital question, the Protestants of Quebec have been treated with wonderful liberality. I think that Protestants ought to be in most ways as good men as their Catholic neighbors, and in as much as there are five Protestants in Ontario to one Catholic, and the proportion is nearly the same in all of the Provinces, except Quebec, I think our

Protestant brethren will be able to take care of themselves without the assistance of any such association as this. In addition to the objection which I have already mentioned to the recognition of secret societies by Parliament, the parliamentary recognition is equivalent to an admission that the society is necessary in Canada. No hon. gentleman will contend that that is the case.

HON. MR. McMILLAN—Does the hon. gentleman mean to say that the incorporation of this society will embolden them, or give them more privileges than they have at present to parade the streets?

HON. MR. POWER—I have said that on principle you cannot defend the incorporation of this society. There are three grounds: I take the constitutional ground; I take the ground that it is improper to recognize a secret oath-bound society, and then I say that the incorporation of this society is a recognition by Parliament of the fact that the society is necessary or useful here to-day. I say that that it is a libel on the country.

HON. MR. McMILLAN—But this Bill does not empower them to be more aggressive.

HON. MR. POWER—I shall deal with that presently. So far, I agree with the hon. gentlemen from Ottawa and Toronto, that theoretically the argument against this Bill is unanswerable. But there is a practical side to the question, too; and that I propose, with the permission of the House, to deal with very briefly. Are there any circumstances in connection with this Bill which might modify our objections? In the words of the hon. gentleman who has just interrupted me, will incorporation really add anything to the power or influence of the Orange body in Canada? I do not undertake to answer that question in a very decided way myself, but we have some evidence to go upon. As far as I am concerned myself, I should be disposed to look to the case of my own Province for an answer. With the permission of the House, I shall give a very brief history of Orange incorporation in Nova Scotia. In the year 1873, the same year in which the Bill passed the Ontario Legislature, a Bill was introduced in the House of Assembly in Nova Scotia