

influence in the Government of the country. While the Irish were disunited they were treated with injustice by the Imperial Parliament, but now that they have learned that union is strength, they can make and unmake governments, and even the haughty peers of England are obliged to seek their assistance if they wish to hold power. I hope the time will soon come when our public men will see the necessity of uniting as the Irish have done in defence of their rights and privileges, and will prove equal to the responsibility which is cast upon them.

I have enumerated some of the rights and privileges guaranteed to us which have been set aside, and I have endeavored to show that it is time for us to organize with a view to receiving better treatment. I ask the hon. gentlemen who are in the majority here, to put themselves in our place; I ask them to imagine how they would feel if the Premier for twenty years past had been a French-Canadian and a Catholic, and had treated the Protestant minority as we have been treated on the subject of marriage. What would their feelings be? What would they think of a man who, for five weeks, pledged his honor that a certain course would be pursued, and yet, when he arrived in England, violated that solemn pledge; and now when we remind him of it, informs us "I have got you into the Union; I do not care about my pledge now; I have my majority behind me and you must submit." I challenge any one of you to say that you would tamely submit to such injustice and continue your allegiance to such a leader. I do not ask the House for favors on behalf of those I represent. We are strong enough to demand our rights, because, as I said before, I believe there are amongst the majority who speak the English language in this Chamber, enough men of honor with a sense of right, to aid us in our appeal for justice; but if the majority continue to trample upon our rights and privileges as they have been doing, some day you will witness in the Province of Quebec something similar to what has taken place in Ireland—a union of our race, which will exercise the same influence in the Parliament of Canada that the Parnellites wield to-day in the Parliament of Great Britain.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE.

HON. MR. MCINNES (B.C.)—This debate has been rather protracted, having extended over three days, therefore I do not wish to take up very much of the time of the House. But from the fact that every province has been heard from with the exception of British Columbia, it will be taken as a sign that its representatives in this House at least acquiesce in all that is stated in the Speech from the Throne, and as there are some things in that Speech that I cannot endorse, I feel it my duty to ask the attention of honorable members for a few moments, while I state them.

The first paragraph in the Speech refers to the prosperity and substantial progress of the Dominion. I regret very much indeed that that cannot be said with regard to the province of British Columbia, for there is a greater commercial and general depression prevailing in that province to-day than there has been at any time for the last twelve years. As an evidence of the depression existing there, I will refer to the coal trade which is one of the most important industries of our province. The two great coal mining companies in British Columbia, the Wellington and the Vancouver, are only worked to about one-fourth of their capacity. One of these companies, at the beginning of this month, discharged no less than 40 of their miners, and each company has very large quantities of coal on its wharves, from 40,000 to 50,000 tons ready for market, and for which no market is to be found.

The laboring classes in particular are in a most pitiable condition in that province, and I cannot altogether exonerate the Government from blame for that state of affairs, and for this reason, when the first contract was let for the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, in our province, a number of years ago, known as the Onderdonk section, extending from Port Moody into the interior some 225 miles, the representatives of British Columbia in both Houses of Parliament urged upon the Government time and again, in fact for two or three years in succession, to place a clause in the railway contract, excluding Chinese labor. Our warning was not heeded, and the consequence was that thousands of Chinese navvies or coolies were imported by the