

evils would follow as from the compulsory ballot. The position of the Government with regard to that was untenable. He would have no hesitation in voting against the bill, because it was false in every way, because it was the same half-way measure which had been taken with regard to Public Schools—a measure designed to let the Government down easy. Mr. Clancy then remarked that trustees elected by open voting would not be likely to declare for the ballot, and, in reply to a question of Mr. Fraser's, declared that he believed in the municipal machinery being used with the ballot for both Public and Separate School elections. He further declared that the bill would prove a dead letter, and concluded by again declaring that the ballot would interfere with no man's religion.

MR. WHITE OPPOSES.

Mr. White continued the debate. He complained of the partizan character of Mr. Conmee's speech, and declared that he was not in favor of the proposition which he had submitted to the House. It would not put an end to the bickerings; it would simply transfer the quarrelling from the House to the school sections. Mr. White then cited the case of Windsor, where there is one Union School Board, one school board election, and the ballot is used, and Catholics and Protestants live together in harmony. He believed that the Catholic priesthood would prefer not to have the question continually debated in the House and the country, and would prefer to get rid of the charge of terrorism. He then declared one sub-section in Mr. Conmee's bill would make the ballot compulsory after all, for it stipulated that the ballot once adopted should be retained for three years. If for three years why not for all the time? He believed that Mr. Conmee had no desire to succeed in allaying religious strife; he had taunted the Orangemen and the P. P. A. and had tried to incite religious hostility. That was a mode of procedure for which he had no use. It was the mode of Judas Iscariot, of trying to advance one's political fortunes by means of his religion. If he could not arrive at any prominence in politics without the aid of his religion he was contented to get on without it. He then held that there was

no finality in the measure before the House. The House should be bold enough to pass laws that would have some standing on the statute book. This would cause log-rolling about the country. The chief sinner in this respect was the Minister of Education. Until there was a non-political head to that department there would be no end to these bickerings.

Hon. Mr. Ross—Who is bickering now?

Mr. White—The hon. gentleman is bickering with himself. Mr. White went on to describe the Minister of Education as a firebrand who was applying a torch to the question at issue. The school system should be taken out of the region of politics.

Hon. Mr. Ross—The Separate School system was passed under the administration of the Chief Superintendent.

Mr. White—I think it was since the hon. gentleman came to power. Mr. White went on to deny that the Roman Catholics could be wielded as a solid body, and declared that they formed their own opinions for themselves. It was wrong to charge the clergy with controlling the vote of the laity. Hon. Mr. Fraser was one of the chief sinners in that respect.

Hon. Mr. Fraser—In what respect?

Mr. White—You said that you controlled the Roman Catholic vote.

Hon. Mr. Fraser—I never said that or thought it. The hon. gentleman is indulging his imagination.

Mr. White—It is thought in the country that you said it.

Mr. White then went into the constitutional aspect of the question, and traced the history of the educational system from the capitulation in 1763, and held that the Attorney-General had opposed tooth and nail the Separate School bill of 1863, and had done all he could to stop its progress. He was still speaking when the hour of 1 o'clock came and the Speaker left the chair.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

When the Speaker took the chair at 3 o'clock the routine business was hurried through. Hon. Mr. Harcourt introduced a bill to provide for the transfer of the names of voters from the lists of one electoral district to another, and then the debate was continued.

Mr. White concluded his speech. He defended the Opposition from the charge that they were trying to do away with the constitutional rights of the Catholics, and declared that it was cowardly for the Government to depute to Mr. Conmee the task of bringing in a bill which should have been introduced by a Minister. He was of opinion that the majority of Roman Catholics were not averse to the ballot, and strongly opposed the adoption of a half-way measure. The ballot should be compulsory, and so avoid the danger of the struggle being transferred to the school sections.

MR. BALFOUR.

Mr. Balfour stated that as a representative of a riding which contained a large number of Roman Catholic voters he did not think he should give a silent vote. He was not trying to make political capital, for if that were his motive he would best do that by taking the opposite of the course he was about to take. He thought that Mr. White had taken a stand which would be contrary to that favored by the Roman Catholic voters of his constituency. He thought that it was a pity that Mr. Meredith had taken his present course, and reminded the House that his course since 1886 had been contrary to his course prior to that date. Mr. Meredith disclaimed any attempt to rouse religious differences, but his actions belied this, for he had time and again assailed the minority and was always speaking of their encroachments. Mr. Balfour then sketched the manner in which the Roman Catholics and the Protestants had lived in harmony together before these agitations had been started, and instanced the case of Windsor, which Mr. White had previously cited, as a case in which the new spirit of intolerance had upset the spirit of harmony which had prevailed. He reminded Mr. White that he had been compelled to run as an independent with regard to Mr. Meredith's educational policy, so unpopular had that policy been in his constituency. He knew now matters had stood in Windsor, and could say that it was not by compulsion but by persuasion that the union board had been formed. He denied that there was a solid Catholic vote, saying that neither he nor Mr. White nor Mr. Clancy had ever found the Catholic vote solid either for them or against them. There seemed good reason to think that there was a combination of the P. P. A. and the Conservatives. The Roman Catholics might well be excused for looking with suspicion on their would-be defenders. The Orange Grand Lodge had adopted a programme which first assailed the ameliorations of the Separate School law passed by the present Government, and then aimed at the abolition of the Separate Schools. Mr. Balfour then alluded to the argument that because the Liberals in 1863 opposed the Separate School act they could not be honest in supporting it now. The Attorney-General's position was that the Separate Schools were the result of a compromise, and were guaranteed by Confederation; and what remained was to secure for them an efficient machinery whereby a proper system of education could be secured. Mr. Balfour also cited the words of Hon. George Brown as to his attitude to the Separate Schools. The Liberals were prepared loyally to abide by the agreement embodied in Confederation. The Conservatives had for years had the great body of the Catholic vote, but as time went on they had divided up afresh on political lines; and as soon as the leader of the Opposition found he had lost the support of the majority of the Roman Catholics he had taken a course to attract the votes of the opposite side, and so a large majority of the Roman Catholics had been driven into the Liberal party. Mr. Balfour then reminded Mr. Meredith of the part members of the P. P. A. took at his nomination, and of the alliances between the Conservatives and the P. P. A. in several constituencies over the Province. He ventured to say that not one of the members of the Opposition would dare to get up and publicly condemn the P. P. A. He was in favor of Liberal treatment of the Roman Catholics, and had no hesitation in voting as he proposed to vote. They could afford to be generous to the minority in this Province. He saw no reason for departing from the course which the Government had taken in deference to the present agitation. Nothing had been given to the Roman Catholics to which they were not entitled, and he was confident that the verdict of the people upon this subject would be the same as it had been in the last two contests.

MR. E. F. CLARKE SPEAKS.

Mr. E. F. Clarke said that personally he, as a citizen, would like to see the Separate Schools abolished, but that he was not prepared to see them abolished against the will of the Roman Catholic laity. If it were not for the way in which the Separate Schools had been embodied in the Confederation act there would be fewer difficulties connected with the subject. He maintained that there had been agitations among the Roman Catholic laity for the ballot, and that in Toronto intelligent Roman Catholic laymen had lifted their voices for the ballot system. He then touched upon the declaration of the Western Grand Lodge, to which reference had been made, and contended that it did not contain one intolerant word. He defended Mr. J. L. Hughes, who had uttered the words in question, from the charges which had been made against him, and maintained that if the system which he advocated were followed the Province would be much the better. When the Grand Master had said he believed in one national education for the children of the Province he had fallen foul of the member for South Essex, but he thought the majority of the people