

establishment of separate schools in the future province of Saskatchewan. Our pious contemporary forgets that Mr. Mackenzie's original Bill did not contain a single word on the subject. It was later on only that the Prime Minister agreed to have that clause added in compliance with representations which were made to him. The Bill was already printed.

The 'National,' on the next day, made the following reply :

The 'Minerve' states that we persist in claiming credit for our party for the establishment of the clause in the Northwest Bills which provides for separate schools in the future province of Saskatchewan.

Well, yes, brother, we stick to our statements because they are true and well grounded. On giving notice of the introduction of the Bill, concerning the Northwest Territories, the hon. Mr. Mackenzie added, in the midst of applause, that the new Act would ensure to the various denominations a system of schools in harmony with the interests of each one of them.

The members have heard, as we have, the statement made on that occasion, and are in a position to support our claim. The Bill, it is true, has been submitted to the House without that clause concerning the schools, but Mr. Mackenzie explained that the matter had suggested itself to him on going into the question of taxation and that, in Committee of the Whole, he would introduce a clause establishing separate schools. The clause was introduced verbally instead of being written into the Bill. To the hon. Mr. Mackenzie, therefore belongs the credit of having enacted this new statutory provision.

Is Mr. Masson, Mr. Mousseau, Mr. Baby, or any other of their friends the originator of that clause? The 'Minerve' refers also to representations made to the Prime Minister. We are not of opinion that any such representations have been made, but it is quite certain that in this respect, as well, Conservatives cannot claim any credit for themselves. The opposition, however green it may be, would not have offered any suggestions to the Prime Minister on a subject which afforded such a fine opportunity for making political capital. Instead of suggesting to the minister the propriety of settling beforehand the school question in the Northwest, Mr. Masson would certainly have moved an amendment in that direction and claimed credit on that account for his party.

The 'Courier de St. Hyacinthe,' another high principled organ of those times, now took a hand in the fray and flew to the rescue of the 'Minerve.' On the 26th of April, 1875, the old goddess, with complacency reproduces the 'Courier's' little song :

The Toronto 'Mail,' the leading organ of the Conservative party in Upper Canada, unhesitatingly endorses the principle of separate schools contained in the Act organizing into a new province part of the Northwest Territories. On the other hand, it condemns the opposition made to it by George Brown, who, as is known, took a decided stand against the adoption of that protective clause introduced as an afterthought in the Prime Minister's Bill. The famous treaty-maker, guided on this occasion by the doctrines which have always in-

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expired his paper, and by his own hatred for all that pertains, from far or near, to the Roman Catholic church, would have put Catholics in the Northwest under the same unfavourable conditions which militate against New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Fortunately that proposal of the old chieftain has not been agreed to. Its adoption would have been a grievous political mistake which would have allayed the progress of settlement in those far-off regions, and which would have become a source of embarrassment for the Dominion government.

On April 28th, 1875, the 'Minerve,' deals with the subject once more, apologizes for the Toronto 'Leader,' and claims that the 'Mail' is the organ of Sir John and that the Conservative party is in favour of separate schools. The Toronto 'Leader' dealt with the subject in a sense directly opposite to that of its ultramontane ally, as may be seen by a perusal of its columns.

The 'National,' on April 24, 1875, exposes, in the following terms, the falsehoods of the 'Minerve :

SEPARATE SCHOOLS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.

The tanners' apprentices of the 'Minerve' have not been particularly well inspired in the matter of a short editorial on the subject of separate schools in the Northwest Territories. It is stated therein that we are indebted to Conservative senators for the clause which provides for the schools and that Messrs. Christie and Letellier have opposed the Bill.

In the first place, Mr. Christie, as Speaker of the Senate, has no right to express an opinion except by means of his casting vote in case of an equal division; then Mr. Letellier, being one of the ministers, could not reject in the Senate a principle endorsed by the government and set forth in a Government Bill. Besides, Mr. Letellier took exactly the opposite stand to that alleged by the 'Minerve.' He approved strongly of the school clause. The amendment supported by Mr. Brown to the effect that the future legislature of the Northwest be left with an entirely free hand as regards educational matters, was moved by a leading Conservative, Mr. Alkens, and endorsed by nearly all the Protestant senators who belonged to the opposition.

The 'Minerve' winds up by a most laughable blunder. After having stated that the liberals are not the originators of the school system introduced in the Northwest, it contradicts itself by quoting from the 'Mail' a few lines wherein the writer congratulates the government on having safeguarded the interests of the various denominations, and on having prevented difficulties such as those which occurred in New Brunswick.

In this review of the session's work for 1875, the 'Journal de Quebec,' the organ of the Hon. Mr. Cauchon, one of the ministers of the Mackenzie government, made the following statement :

Before concluding, we cannot omit calling attention to a fact which shows to what degree partisanship may blind itself: Mr. Mackenzie had introduced a Bill for the purpose of reorganizing the Northwest Territory. In the course of the discussion on that matter,