

particular purpose which my hon. friend the premier clearly explained. . . . If this territory is annexed to Manitoba the laws of that province relating to schools will apply to it. If reannexed to the Northwest Territories, clause 11 of the Act of last session will apply.

Mr. Mousseau said this clause seemed to empower the government of the new province to repeal clause 11 of the Act of last session securing separate schools to the Northwest Territory. He wished to know if this was the case.

Hon. Mr. Blake said that the 11th clause of the Northwest Territory Act was not yet in force, and would not apply to any of these Territories until the Act was proclaimed. It was a clause which could only come into force practically in connection with a system of taxation, no provision for which was made in this portion of the Territories so long as it remained under this form of government. The future of these Territories would be either one of two things—they would be annexed to Manitoba or they would be detached from Keewatin and reannexed to the Northwest. In either case the rights of the minority would be protected. There was no intention on the part of the government to depart from the general principle of the 11th clause. If the Territories were attached to Manitoba they would be subject to the laws of that province; if to the Northwest they would come under the 11th clause of the Act of last session.

Sir JOHN MACDONALD. If I understand it, by simply proclaiming the Act of 1875 this 11th clause will come into force.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE. Certainly.

In 1875 there was, my hon. friends will remember, the discussion of which I have just spoken on this clause 11. There was again a discussion in 1876 on the Keewatin Act, and it seems to me a sad commentary on our boasted progress in the direction of nation building to find that the clause introduced in 1875, which received the practical approval of both political parties and of the press of both parties in the country cannot be re-enacted to-day. We do not seem to have gone very far on the road towards nation building, when we cannot do to-day, what we could do in 1875. I do not know that it is necessary for me to remind the House of that extract from the 'Mail' of April, 1875, which was quoted by my hon. friend from Richelieu (Mr. Bruneau), in which the 'Mail,' in discussing the position taken by Mr. Brown, said :

We fear that Mr. Brown is no better lawyer than his friend Mr. Mackenzie. We do not doubt that Senator Miller took the correct view when he said that the clause referred to—namely, clause 11—by Mr. Brown applied only to the provinces which were in the union at the time the Act was passed.

And here are the important words :

Every one may see how fortunate a thing it would have been if the school question had been put on a stable basis in New Brunswick. and if by the Northwest Act the government should have prevented future burnings on educational matters in the great new country

Mr. FITZPATRICK.

which belongs to us in the far west, they will have done a good work indeed. We cordially endorse their action in this matter.

That appears to have been the policy of the Conservative party, in those days, and certainly it was a policy worthy of the best traditions of that party. I have not said anything of the character of the schools in the Northwest nor of my personal preference with respect to a system of education. My duty was simply to give effect to a system which was introduced in 1875 in the Territories and which has been established and improved by the free will of the people of those Territories. It has been suggested that the Territories wish to rid themselves of this incubus of separate schools, and we have been referred to a resolution that was passed by the Territorial Assembly in October 1889, asking that a humble address be presented, praying that an Act be passed to repeal subsection 1 of section 14. True such a resolution was passed in 1889, but let me draw attention to a resolution which was passed in 1890, the following year. In that year the following resolution was passed :

Moved by Mr. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Brett, that whereas on the 29th October, 1889, this House passed the following resolution, viz:

Resolved, that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General in Council, the Senate and the House of Commons praying that an Act be passed amending the Northwest Territory Act by repealing subsection 1 of section 14 after the word 'education' in the second line.

And whereas such address was duly presented by way of memorial passed on the 6th November, 1889,

And whereas no action has been taken on the subject by the parliament of Canada;

Therefore, be it resolved that this House reaffirm the vote as taken on the said 29th October, 1889, and respectfully request that the said memorial as above mentioned shall receive careful consideration by the parliament of Canada at its next session and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State.

With time and consideration came wisdom. That resolution was put to the House and how did it result? Six voted in favour of it, and 15 against it. And there this agitation with respect to the repeal of the provisions of the Act having reference to separate schools ended, and we have heard nothing of it since. And of course, the present Prime Minister of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Haultain, voted against the resolution and in favour of maintaining the present condition. But that is not all; we have something even more recent. We have heard quite recently about the extension of the Manitoba boundaries and the desirability of extending those boundaries has been dwelt upon. And in that connection we have heard references more forcible than polite to a gentleman who is supposed to have been in some way connected with