

unto others as we would have others do unto us.' The Protestants are the majority in this Dominion and the Roman Catholics the minority. Let it never be said to the disgrace, the discredit and the shame of the majority that they only respect this principle when it works to their advantage, and that they are unwilling to admit its operation when it is sought by others.

I was referring, Mr. Speaker, to the history of this question in relation to Manitoba. In 1870, there existed in Manitoba a system of purely voluntary schools. They were entirely denominational, some maintained by the Roman Catholics and some by the Protestants, but all supported by fees paid by the parents of the children who attended them and by the several churches to which these schools appertained. One short year after the creation of the province in 1871, a law was passed by Manitoba establishing a system of denominational schools. A Board of Education composed of two sections was constituted, one-half Protestants and one-half Roman Catholics and the province was divided into twelve Protestant districts and twelve Catholic districts. Nothing could be fairer than this equal division as between the two denominations. This system was maintained until 1890 when the policy of the preceding nineteen years was reversed and the denominational system of schools swept away. The Public Schools Act of 1890 provided that all schools be free schools, all were declared non-sectarian and no school not conforming to this Act and to the regulations of the Department of Education could participate in state funds. Such was the legislation down to 1890. In 1891, the minority, chafing under this condition had recourse to the courts and to litigation and we have then the irritation, the agitation, the painful disquiet which has lasted in this country during six long years down to 1896. I am reminded that I am already trespassing upon the promise I made and if agreeable to the House and if I am in order I will move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Fielding, House adjourned at 1.15 a.m., Tuesday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TUESDAY, April 18, 1905.

The SPEAKER took the Chair at Three o'clock.

BILL WITHDRAWN.

Bill (No. 38) to amend the Seamen's Act.—Mr. Préfontaine.

FIRST READING.

Bill (No. 147) to amend the Seamen's Act.—Mr. Préfontaine.

EASTER ADJOURNMENT.

Rt. Hon. Sir WILFRID LAURIER (Prime Minister) moved:

That when this House adjourns on Wednesday next it stand adjourned to Tuesday, April the 25th.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Is it the intention to adjourn at six o'clock to-morrow afternoon?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I understand that the general opinion of the House is that we should adjourn at six o'clock to-morrow.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. Very well.

Motion agreed to.

PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY IN THE NORTHWEST—SCHEDULES TO AUTONOMY BILLS.

On the Orders of the Day being called,

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I wish again to direct the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact that we have not yet before us the schedules to the two Bills, No. 69 and No. 70. These schedules are, of course, a very important part of the Bills which were presented on the 21st of February, and it seems to me we should have had the schedules long ago. Indeed, in the regular course, we should have had them when the Bills were introduced. I mentioned this matter to the Prime Minister last week, and he said he would give me the information later.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. The schedules have not been completed yet, for the reason that we had no absolute basis to go upon. We thought if we had the voters' lists upon which the election took place in the Northwest Territories it would afford us the most reliable information we could get as to the actual population. These lists were placed on the table of the House only yesterday, and the schedules will be prepared.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. This is a matter which no doubt requires a great deal of consideration from the government as well as from the opposition, and I therefore would like to intimate that we must have these schedules a reasonable time before we are called upon to consider them, otherwise delay may ensue in the consideration of the Bills.

TRENT CANAL—DISMISSAL OF INSPECTOR RITCHIE.

Hon. GEORGE E. FOSTER. I wish to call the attention of the proper minister to a return brought down in answer to an order of the House, dated the 20th of March, 1905,