

point to any other province in the Dominion—save Ontario and Quebec and they only by reason of compact—can he point to any province in the Dominion that has not absolute control over its educational system. If he cannot point to any other such province, and I challenge him to do so, then what becomes of his contention that the new provinces are going to be placed in the same full enjoyment of provincial rights as any other province is in the Dominion of Canada. The hon. gentleman was also inaccurate when he said that the draft Bill of Mr. Haultain contained provisions that would have perpetuated ecclesiastical schools. Well, the framer of that draft Bill does not agree with the hon. member for West Assiniboia. The framer of that draft Bill meant that the British North America Act should apply which gives sole control to the provinces over educational affairs. When the hon. member (Mr. Scott), in order to suit his own party purposes, desires to read into that draft Bill a meaning that the framers of the Bill never intended it should have, he is taking a stand which he cannot maintain for one moment. Of course he is privileged to read into the draft Bill any ignorant meaning he may desire, but his doing so will not change the true intent of those who framed that clause. That clause was drafted, as I understand, under the guidance and direction of the premier of the Territories, and of the present Chief Justice Sifton and his then deputy, the present Judge Harvey. These gentlemen decided that the clause should be drafted so that the provinces should have absolute control over their educational affairs, and Mr. Haultain so interprets the clause to-day, and indeed it is the only sane interpretation it will bear. I do not wish to discuss this from a legal point of view, although my lay opinion might be equally as good as that of the member for West Assiniboia; I simply give you the opinion of the leader of the Territorial Executive on the matter, who says that this draft Bill was framed in accordance with the desire of the people of the Territories to control their own educational affairs, and that it was sent down to the Ottawa government with that object in view. And, Sir, if that draft Bill had the meaning which the member for West Assiniboia attaches to it, how is it that the right hon. the Prime Minister, astute as he is, and now is it that the lynx-eyed Postmaster General did not discover such a meaning? They are both legal gentlemen learned in the law, and yet it remained for the layman from West Assiniboia to read into the Territorial draft Bill a meaning that the Prime Minister of Canada and the Postmaster General failed to see. The member for West Assiniboia has stated that if he were one of the minority he would never consent to taking out of this Bill the guarantee of separate schools. In one breath the hon. gentleman states: We have practically no separate schools up

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there, it is a national school system. They have the same text books, the same qualifications for their teachers, the same inspection, nothing different at all except a separate school-house. And still he says:

I say, looking at the history of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, that if I were a member of the minority I would not consent to have the guarantee cut out,—

What guarantee? For the rights of the legislation of 1875 which he stated George Brown contended would exist for all time to come once they were incorporated in the Act of 1875, or is it just the vestige that is left which according to his own language would disappear in a very short time if the guarantee were cut out.

—because I believe the time would come, and that not in the very far future, when the final vestige of the separate school would disappear.

He takes exactly the opposite ground from that taken by the hon. Minister of Finance because the Minister of Finance states that if this Bill becomes law the separate schools, the few there are, will disappear. That in effect is his argument and that is the impression made on this House. But the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Scott) says that if this guarantee is cut out then the only vestige of separate schools which they have will disappear and that in the not distant future. The hon. gentleman has quoted very extensively from some comments made in the press in the Northwest Territories in order to prove to the members of this House that the people there are quite satisfied with the present Bill as it is presented to this House. There are other papers up there besides those from which the hon. gentleman quoted, and I shall inflict a few of these comments upon the House. For instance the Medicine Hat 'Times' says:

The west has had a rude awakening. Until a few days ago everybody believed the Act creating two provinces here would not interfere with the school question, but Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government has added a clause to the Bill which, if not promptly withdrawn, will raise such a storm in the Territories that may take years to subside. The best the west will get out of it will not compensate for the fearful disturbance it will occasion. . . . New settlers coming in should be greeted by a united people having but one object, namely, the development of the country, not hideous dissension over educational matters. Words are too weak to express the indignation and regret which must be felt by all true lovers of the western country.

Evidently the writer of this article knew who was precipitating this question into the political arena and did not blame it on this side of the House. He took issue with that view.

The Moosomin 'Spectator' says:

Sir Wilfrid, we think, made a grave mistake when he argued for separate schools on the