

such things acknowledged by law as Catholic public schools in the Northwest. But, as I have said, the only four reports of the department of education that are in this parliament are the reports of 1900, 1901, 1902 and 1903. In the report of 1900, which was the last one published before this ordinance of 1901, as a matter of fact the existence was acknowledged, on the 31st December, 1900, of 565 public schools, 46 Roman Catholic public schools, 13 Catholic separate schools, 2 Protestant separate schools and 4 schools in unorganized districts. But in the following reports, all public schools are classed under one heading and there is no such thing, legally, as a Catholic separate school. And the document quoted by the Minister of Inland Revenue (Mr. Brodeur) is proof of what I say. In the practice, but not in the law, they continue to speak of the schools organized before 1901 as Catholic public schools. The number of these stated by the minister was about 45, I think.

Mr. BRODEUR. About that, I believe.

Mr. BOURASSA. That is an evidence of what I have stated. On 31st December, 1900, the number of Catholic public schools was forty-six; and what they call Catholic public schools are the remnant of the Catholic schools. I have received information from the Northwest Territories within the last few days that the schools organized since 1901 by Catholics were not allowed to bear the name of Catholic public schools. But I have here also an official document of the government of the Northwest Territories to the same effect. At Oakhill, there was a petition signed by Catholics asking for the organization of a Catholic public school. And here is the reply of the Deputy Commissioner of Education:

Regina, January 31st, 1905.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 29th ultimo, I beg to say that your school district, when established, will be called the Oak Hill school district. The present school law does not make any provision for the organization of Roman Catholic public school districts.

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) J. A. CALDER,

Deputy Commissioner.

F. A. Bennett, Esq.,

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I already knew that. The fact had been stated to me by people who reside in the Northwest. It had been stated to me by people who have come back from the Northwest that they had tried, time and again, to procure from Regina, as before 1901, the establishment of a Catholic public school, and they were told that to organize a Catholic public school district was not allowed, and the only Catholic schools they were entitled to organize was in cases where they were the minority.

Mr. BRODEUR. I have here a statement signed by the Deputy Minister of Instruction for the Northwest Territories, and in it the

schools are divided into public schools, Roman Catholic public schools and Roman Catholic separate schools.

Mr. BOURASSA. What is the number of Roman Catholic public schools?

Mr. BRODEUR. Forty-nine. My hon. friend (Mr. Bourassa) says that there has been a change since 1901, but here is a statement signed by the Deputy Commissioner of Education stating that there has been no change.

Mr. BOURASSA. If my hon. friend (Mr. Brodeur) had followed me he would have understood that I stated positively that the change left intact the name of Catholic public schools as applied to those organized before 1901. It was then that these forty-nine schools were organized. But every school organized by the Catholics since has been refused this privilege. There are now 150 schools organized and supported by Catholics that should be called Catholic public schools. Only forty-nine appear now. Why? Because that is all the remnant of those established previous to the ordinance of 1901. All the others were refused, as shown by the document I have just read, which emanates from the same authority that the Minister of Inland Revenue (Mr. Brodeur) has quoted. And everybody who has been in the Northwest knows that these are the facts. Since 1901, the Catholics have no right to establish a Catholic public school. Yet, as I have said, there are 150 schools that should be known by that name. I venture to say that nine-tenths of the Catholics of the Northwest Territories live in school districts in which they form a majority. And here we have the result—not one more Catholic public or separate school to-day than four years ago. And this has been pointed to with pride by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Fielding) as showing the disposition of Catholics not to organize more separate schools. When the law of the land is against you and you cannot get justice at the hands of the sovereign parliament it is hardly to be wondered at if you do not do exactly what you would like to do. As the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) has said, the effort has been to make the Catholics believe that they were receiving bread when they were being given a stone. The Prime Minister has quoted Bishop Legal. 'Le Canada,' of Montreal, had for three weeks, under great headlines, a statement of the alleged opinion of Bishop Legal—because both parties in Quebec still like to use the name of a bishop, when it is to their own advantage. Bishop Legal was quoted as saying: We are satisfied with the school system of the Northwest, and we desire to have it continued. 'Le Canada' gave that as the approval of Bishop Legal of the present amendment. And, when asked three or four times to produce their authority, they had to admit that this was