

ing now the Northwest, and I have not heard of any complaint about the Northwest lists. If hon. gentlemen on the other side think that the Manitoba lists are stuffed and fixed, why do they not take steps to put a stop to that. The lists are managed there the same as elsewhere; and if they are not properly made up, the courts of the country are open.

Mr. J. D. REID. Well, we had one election in the west, in the constituency of Mountain, some time ago.

Mr. FIELDING. No, we had not. The local government had an election in Mountain, and I saw it stated in the public press that the Prime Minister of Manitoba said the school question had nothing to do with it.

Mr. J. D. REID. I have read the press, and the Hon. Mr. Greenway, a member of this House, and several other members here went out there and discussed the school question and made it the main issue, and they claimed that the result of that election would decide a great deal, in so far as the Liberal party in this House was concerned.

Mr. FIELDING. I must not contradict my hon. friend, but I see no statement which treated the Mountain election as having had any effect on Dominion politics.

Mr. BARR. You do not read the papers.

Mr. FIELDING. I read some but not all my hon. friend does.

Mr. J. D. REID. Perhaps the Minister of Finance—

Mr. FIELDING. I beg my hon. friend's pardon, I should not have interrupted him.

Mr. D. ROSS. Will the hon. gentleman be good enough to inform the House where he gets his authority for the statement that the electors of Edmonton are like Chinamen?

Mr. J. D. REID. I said that a lot of these foreigners, Russians, were men who were hard to identify. Those are the words I used. I did not say that all the electors of Edmonton were that kind, and the hon. gentleman should not try to misrepresent me.

Mr. D. ROSS. I should be very sorry to misrepresent the hon. gentleman. The statement made as I understood it, was that fifty-one per cent of the electors of Edmonton were foreigners who were like a lot of Chinamen.

Mr. J. D. REID. No, I did not say that. I assume that the hon. gentleman (Mr. D. Ross) does not wish to misrepresent me. I read a statement from the papers showing the composition of the electorate of Edmonton, and I said that a great many of these electors were Russians, foreigners, whom in case of an election it was hard to identify.

Mr. FIELDING.

I did not state that they were like a lot of Chinamen.

An hon. MEMBER. Correct 'Hansard.'

Mr. J. D. REID. No, 'Hansard' will show what I stated. Now, I feel that, for this country at least, church and state should be kept entirely separated. I do not believe it is right that the church and the state should have any connection whatever with each other. The country should be run entirely independent of the church, and the church should be allowed to manage its own affairs. And in thus speaking I do not refer to any particular church. As far as my constituency is concerned, we had no trouble with the separate school question. Mine is an Ontario constituency, and in the province of Ontario the school question has been settled since confederation, and we have had no trouble. Concessions have been made in the Separate School Act by the provincial government from time to time, though the government always has a majority of Protestants. I believe they have always done what is fair to the minority, and I believe that in the great province of Ontario, where the majority is Protestant, they will always do what is fair and right to the minority. And I have the same faith in the Northwest Territories and the new governments to be established. Even if there is a Protestant majority, they will do what is fair and right to the minority. Should there be a Roman Catholic majority in the new provinces, I should have the same faith in their willingness to do justice to the minority. I believe that if the matter is left entirely in the hands of provincial authority the minority can trust them without fear.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES. Is not the government of Manitoba or some of its members, at the present moment making statements to the effect that the privileges now enjoyed by the minority may be withdrawn.

Mr. MORIN. No.

Mr. J. J. HUGHES. I have seen the statement.

Mr. J. D. REID. I have not seen that statement published as having been made by any member of the Manitoba government, though I have read in the newspapers that such a thing might be done. This, however, may be mere newspaper agitation. On the other hand, I believe the present government of Manitoba have been doing their best to make things satisfactory for the minority. And I believe that from time to time they will help the minority if they find it necessary. And I also believe that so far as any provincial government throughout the Dominion is concerned, be it Protestant or Catholic, the same thing is true. So believing, and also believing that this measure will be injurious to immigration and that will still create an agitation that