

tionable in that it makes an invidious distinction, not contemplated by and contrary to the spirit of the constitution.

Now, is the present system of schools in the Northwest Territories acceptable to the people? I think it is. I feel that I am quite safe in stating that the present educational system in the Territories if continued would be acceptable to at least 90 per cent of the people there. I have some knowledge of the conditions as they exist. I lived many years in the Northwest Territories and just before I came to take my seat in the House, I made a trip through that country, so that I think I am able to speak with some little authority on the subject. Premier Haultain has told us that if he were dictator to-morrow he would continue in the new provinces the present system of schools, and that being so, is it not fair to assume that the present system is satisfactory to the people, else why should he or any other dictator impose upon the people a system to which they object. We have in addition the fact that two years ago the government of the Northwest Territories of their own accord sat down and framed an autonomy Bill, and that Bill contained the principle that the present system of schools should continue. Remember, that is two years ago, when it was impossible to anticipate the difference of opinion that now has arisen on the subject. It was at a time when the government of the Territories sat down with a cool head and I hope a patriotic heart to draft a constitution for their own people, and which I have no doubt they believed would be conducive to their continued happiness and prosperity. This is very fair evidence that the system of schools at present in the Northwest Territories is not only satisfactory to the people, but that it is just exactly what they want. Again, the seven Liberal members in this House representing the Northwest Territories have expressed themselves as satisfied that the present school system should be continued in the new provinces, and I have not heard from the three Conservative members from the Northwest Territories the expression of any unfavourable opinion against that system. Of course, it may be said that members occupying a seat in this House have their political prejudices and that their opinion and their vote may be biased accordingly, but it is also true that the people who sent these representatives here have their own political prejudices and are biased when they cast their votes. Is it a fact that the seven Liberal members from the Territories do reflect the opinion of the people there? I think they do. I am somewhat acquainted with the condition of affairs as they exist in the Territories, and I am quite sure that 90 per cent of the inhabitants of that country, irrespective of party, are perfectly satisfied that the present conditions should continue. The hon. member for West Assiniboia quoted rather copi-

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ously from the Calgary 'Herald' the leading Conservative organ of the new province of Alberta.

I have endeavoured to divide the Northwest Territories into divisions with the view of conveying to this House the opinions of the various sections of the Territories respecting the amended clauses in the Bill now engaging our attention. Let me commence with Northern Alberta. We cannot anticipate with certainty the result of the election now pending there; but I am almost persuaded to pledge my reputation for political veracity that the new Minister of the Interior, if he is not returned by acclamation, will come back to this House with something like three thousand majority. If either of these things does not happen, I shall be prepared to stand up in my place and apologize to this House for inflicting my opinion upon it. So much for Northern Alberta. Now, with your permission, I will read an extract from the Calgary 'Herald,' which represents public opinion in Southern Alberta, if not in the entire district of Alberta. After printing despatches from Ottawa outlining the amended educational clauses, this paper says editorially:

The above despatch to the 'Herald' is very satisfactory reading to the people of the west. It means that moderation and tolerance have won the day, and that in all probability a long and bitter agitation which would have set neighbour against neighbour, has been averted.

The 'Herald' has no fault to find with Sir Wilfrid Laurier for acceding to the demands of his followers. It was feared even by his friends that he might by an uncompromising attitude, precipitate a dangerous crisis. That he chose a common sense rather than a heroic course, is a matter for congratulation among all good citizens, irrespective of party.

This quotation, Mr. Speaker, is taken from the leading Conservative organ of the district of Alberta, and I believe that it represents the all but unanimous view of the people of the west.

I would like also to read a letter which I have received from Mr. J. G. Lange, of Rosthern, president of the German Catholic Colonization Society, which society has influenced a German Catholic immigration of some 5,000 souls into the Territories. The letter is as follows:

Rosthern, March 15, 1905.

D. W. Bole, Esq., M.P.,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir,—In regard to our present school system in the Northwest, I beg to say that during my two years residence in the Territories, I have never heard one word uttered against it. As far as my observation goes it is quite satisfactory to everybody. Our German people, both Protestant and Catholic, are firmly convinced that the religious and moral instruction of the home and the church in order to be thoroughly effective must be supplemented and enforced by a systematic and conscientious religious and moral instruction in the schools.