

struction was given. If they did, it would be a necessary consequence that under those circumstances these schools would be ineffective and inefficient and the result would be that a large proportion of the youth would be growing up without the proper education which it is in the interest of the state that every body in the country should have.

I do not propose and I do not desire to enter into a discussion of Christian ethics or of the Christian religion, but, Sir, there is a main principle of Christian ethics that is known as the Golden Rule, that we should do unto others as we would that they should do unto us. Now, Sir, in Quebec, we Protestants do wish to have separate schools, we Protestants value the privilege that we have there. We Protestants value the privileges we have in that province with our separate schools, and I think the least we can do is to try to live up to the fundamental principle of Christian ethics and do for others what we wish them to do for us. I want to go a step further, and to say to the Protestants of Canada and other provinces that I think it would be more to their credit; and would illustrate better their belief in the Christian religion, if they would stand by us in that principle and would extend to the minority in the provinces in which they are a majority the privileges which the Roman Catholics have given to the Protestants, their fellow-citizens, in the province of Quebec. I do not think that our Protestant friends in the other provinces realize in the slightest degree the advantages afforded us by the Catholic majority. By the Catholic majority, did I say? No, by the fathers and framers of confederation, the men who decided that the principle of separate schools should be acknowledged in our confederation compact. And, Sir, it was not only the Protestants of that time of our history who gave that privilege of separate schools. Men like Cartier and other leaders of the Roman Catholics who were engaged in framing our constitution did not hesitate for a moment when Mr. Galt asked for separate schools for the Protestants of Quebec. There was no attempt on the part of the Roman Catholic Church to refuse to the Protestants of Quebec what to-day so large a number of the Protestant churches in the other provinces where the Protestants are in a majority are trying to refuse to the Roman Catholic minorities of those provinces. We have had treatment from the Roman Catholics of Quebec which, I am ashamed to say, the Protestants where they are a majority seem to grudge to their fellow-citizens, the Roman Catholic minority.

Sir, what is it we have in the province of Quebec? I said a few moments ago that we had a system of absolute separation of schools. We have a Council of Public Instruction. There are in that council two absolutely separate bodies the Protestant committee and the Catholic committee. The Protestant

committee absolutely do not suffer from any interference by dictation from or discussion with the Catholic majority. We have absolute control over our whole school system; we regulate the Normal school; we regulate the qualification of our teachers; we regulate the inspection of our schools; we regulate the curriculum; we regulate the text books. And, in addition, we have an absolute division, according to the population, of all the votes given in favour of schools and education by the province, and we have our own taxation to be voted entirely and exclusively to the carrying on of our own schools.

Mr. BRODEUR. And share in special funds.

Mr. FISHER. I am coming to that in a moment. I do not care particularly to compare the privileges that the minority in the province of Quebec enjoy with the privileges which, by this Bill and the ordinances of the Northwest Territories, are being given to the Catholics of the new provinces. That comparison would show obviously that we have a great deal more privileges than are proposed to be given to the Catholics of the Northwest Territories. However, that is not a matter I need discuss now. The people generally on both sides of this question, have accepted the principle of giving to the Catholics of the new provinces the rights and privileges that they enjoy to-day, which, as I say, are small in comparison with the privileges enjoyed to-day by the Protestant minority in the province of Quebec. But these privileges granted to the minority in the Northwest under the Bill have worked satisfactorily and successfully for a number of years, and we can, therefore, safely say they will work satisfactorily and successfully in years to come and, so will satisfy both the Protestants and the Catholics of these new provinces. The Minister of Inland Revenue (Mr. Brodeur) a moment ago said that we of the minority in Quebec have another privilege in regard to the distribution of certain funds. In Quebec to-day the Protestants number about one-eighth of the population. But, in the first place, let it be understood that all the taxation levied for school purposes on any Protestant goes to Protestant education just as the taxation levied on Catholics goes to Catholic education.

Mr. SPROULE. That is not what the Huntingdon 'Gleaner' says.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Knows nothing about it.

Mr. FISHER. I am sorry if it says what is not true.

Mr. SPROULE. It is quite true. I do not know anything about it. But I am referring to what is stated by a newspaper that ought to know, as it is published in the province of Quebec.