

What does the constitution say in regard to the use of the French language? Section 133 is the one which applies and it says that the French language shall be used in the courts established by the parliament of Canada in the Dominion parliament and in the courts and proceedings of the legislative assembly of Quebec. The constitution in regard to the question of schools is absolutely different. What does it declare in section 93?

In and for each province—

Not only the four provinces which were then in existence but all the provinces which might be created:

—the legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to education, subject and according to the following provisions:

Nothing in any such law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denominational schools which any class of persons have by law in the province at the union.

What we are doing in regard to the schools is simply incorporating into the constitutions of these provinces the provision which is embodied in section 93 of the British North America Act. We find that under the British North America Act a system of separate schools will be recognized for ever in the Province, whether it exists, whether it is a province coming into the union, or a province where a system of separate schools may be established later on. As far as the French language is concerned, on the contrary, the British North America Act simply declares that the French language shall continue to exist only in the courts created by the parliament of Canada, or that it shall be used in the proceedings before the Supreme Court, or in the proceedings before the courts and the legislative assembly of the province of Quebec. So I say our contention is absolutely in conformity with the constitution of Canada, and I am sure that nobody will attempt to argue that our position on the question of the French language is not in harmony with the position which we took on the school question. As a question of fact is the French language used to-day in the courts in the Northwest Territories? Is it used to-day in the publication of the ordinances? I have been informed that the ordinances have not been published in French for many years, and that there never was any request for their publication in French by the French people there.

Mr. MONK. Is not that a violation of the law as it at present stands?

Mr. BRODEUR. The statute is somewhat confused, but giving my opinion off hand, I would say that it is not in harmony with the legislation of 1877 and 1890.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. If I remember correctly, the Territorial government said that they had no appropriation for publishing the

ordinances in French, and that it was the duty of the federal government to have them published in that language.

Mr. MONK. It is the fault of this government then?

Mr. BRODEUR. Not at all; the local government has the right to levy taxes for revenue.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. The Territorial government took the ground that the statute did not say that the ordinances should be published by them in the French language.

Mr. BRODEUR. The law says that they shall be published in French as well as in English, and if the Territorial government are bound to publish them in one language they are bound to publish them in the other. As a matter of fact they have not published them in French for many years, and after the legislation of 1892, of their own proprio motu they ceased to publish the ordinances in French because it seemed to be their policy that French should no longer continue to be an official language.

Mr. SCOTT. On the 25th of August, 1898, the government at Regina was interrogated with regard to their failure for some years previously to permit the ordinances in French, and this is a part of the answer given:

There was no practical necessity for printing the ordinances in French. The returns show no demand for French editions. In the whole of the business of the government there have only been two applications for ordinances or assembly records in French.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. What is the rest of the answer?

Mr. SCOTT. That is the only part of the answer I have, but the rest of the answer was as indicated by the leader of the opposition, that if the Dominion authorities thought it was necessary that the ordinances should be printed in French, they should furnish the money.

Mr. BRODEUR. That is a poor argument for Mr. Haultain to use. Any way he never made application to the Dominion government for money for that purpose.

Mr. SCOTT. His main reason was that there was no practical necessity for printing them in French.

Mr. BRODEUR. I am informed by the Prime Minister that Mr. Haultain never made an application for money for that purpose.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I do not remember that any was made.

Mr. MONK. Mr. Haultain puts the blame on this government.

Mr. BRODEUR. It was the policy of the Territorial government not to publish these ordinances any longer in French, and they