

the minds of every man who made that law? Is the Prime Minister prepared to say that Mr. Blake, Sir Richard Cartwright, Mr. Holton, Mr. Huntington, Sir John Macdonald—all those men who passed that legislation without a dissenting voice—were all untrue to their mandate and broke the spirit of the constitution which was just fresh in their minds, which had been framed by them and enacted by the imperial parliament?

Sir, if it was not a break of the constitution in 1870 to establish the dual language in Manitoba for all time, why would it be such a break in 1905 to establish for all time the dual language in the Northwest Territories? Now, the Solicitor General made an argument this afternoon that would be true if one fact was not forgotten. He said, Why don't you go to Ontario and raise a cry about the use of the French language there? For the very reason given by the Prime Minister a moment ago, that by the spirit of the constitution of this country the province of Ontario is not a creation of ours; it was a sovereign colony when it entered the confederation in 1867, and the French language had no official recognition there at that time. But the representatives of Ontario as well as the representatives of Quebec declared, the first time they made a new province, that the dual language would be official. The reason was obvious. What was the idea of parliament in 1870 when they carved out the province of Manitoba? It was something more and higher than merely to establish a new province. What were the words of Sir George E. Cartier when he spoke of establishing for the first time the Northwest Territories? Did he say to the delegates from Manitoba, We are going to make a small province in Manitoba, but the rest of our territory will not be organized on the same basis? No, but what he said was this:

As soon as the resolutions were agreed to and the address passed, it would be the duty of the government to bring down a measure and obtain authority to organize a provincial government for that territory.

So it is not surprising if the delegates from that province thought that the parliament of Canada had in mind the organization of provincial governments. Sir George Cartier added:

The British North America Act would soon be carried out by a succession of provinces from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Now, Sir, the British North America Act, leaving aside all small considerations of detail, had, I think, two great objects in view. The first has been frequently stated, it had for its object to bury all quarrels of the past between Upper and Lower Canada, that was the birth idea of confederation. The second idea was a larger one, one that had been conceived by imperial statesmen and by Canadian statesmen, it was the loft-

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tier idea of creating under the British flag, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, a great confederacy of provinces, the basis of which would be the principle of equality which had been accepted by both races in this country. It was at first to unite the existing colonies and then to make them one nation. It did not enter into the minds of the fathers of confederation to impose the French language upon the province of Ontario, neither upon the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia, which already had constitutions, which already had parliamentary institutions. But when they considered—and this was the second object of the Confederation Act—when they considered those virgin lands when they threw open to civilization those immense territories which had theretofore been only the domain of the Indian and the buffalo, what was the idea which dominated their minds? It was to introduce there an idea that would include both nationalities, to introduce an idea that would bring together the French and the English; it was to create there a British colony, but also an Anglo-French alliance, that would endure for all time. That was the mother idea of confederation which dominated the minds of Sir John A. Macdonald, George Brown and Sir George E. Cartier. Their idea was that in those new territories, provinces should be carved out where the best traditions of England and France would be introduced and maintained for all time to come. And are we going to be called demagogues, are we to be branded with the narrow accusation that we wish to make a few votes in our province because we desire to keep that pledge that not only was given to the people of the new Territories, but which formed one of the bases of confederation? Are we to be condemned because to-day we wish to give effect to that intention of the fathers of confederation, to that intention of the framers of the Manitoba Act, which we wish to perpetuate in the northwestern provinces? We desire to prove that the agreement between the English and the French still endures.

The Solicitor General, I was sorry to hear, made an argument this afternoon that because the French Canadians are less numerous in the Northwest than the Germans, or the Scandinavians or the Doukhobors, there is no reason to grant us the official use of the French language. The Prime Minister argued that it would not be fair to ask for the official use of French because we were only a small percentage of the population in those provinces. Sir, a question like that which was considered by the fathers of confederation and by the framers of the Manitoba Act, is not one of those that can be settled by quoting figures. What are we doing at the present time by this legislation? We are not creating two provinces for five years, or ten years. What will be the character of the population of those pro-