

words of Edward Blake, and would they be satisfied with that? Does my hon. friend forget that we are legislating for people that are yet to come. My hon. friend evaded a point which is of vital import, which is the keynote of the situation that is his opinion as to whether there should be positive or negative legislation in this important Bill with regard to the educational clauses. He spoke with regard to the delegation of authority from the Dominion to the provinces. I trust I am not misquoting my hon. friend—he will correct me if I am,—when I say that he stated to the House that the Dominion parliament had authority to delegate its authority to the local parliament.

Mr. HALL. That was not what I said. I said that the imperial parliament had delegated certain authority to the Dominion parliament to create these provinces out of the territory.

Mr. BOYCE. If my hon. friend does not remember it I shall withdraw at once. That we had the power then to pass on to these provinces or to any province that we created such power as that.

Mr. HALL. No, I did not say that.

Mr. BOYCE. If that be the proposition or the principle around which my hon. friend was circulating so swiftly; although he may not have said it, yet the whole trend of his ideas as evidenced by his speech was that that was in his mind or his words misrepresented him.

I put to you this proposition, that the question is not whether the federal parliament has the power to give to these Territories provincial rights but whether we have the power, upon this or any other question, to deprive a province of the rights given it by the constitution. My hon. friend was asked across the floor by the hon. member for Stormont (Mr. Pringle) a direct question, which brought him very near the vortex of this maelstrom. Did he answer it? No, with that skilful evasion which distinguished his whole speech, he carefully avoided that question and it still remains unanswered. But he must know, as a lawyer, that all the three British North America Acts, from 1867 to 1886 must be read together. He had lost sight of that, but it was brought to his recollection by the hon. member for Stormont (Mr. Pringle). The hon. gentleman, in order to avoid the issue, fell back on the traditions of his constituency and forthwith forgot some things. I am sure that the proprietors and the managers and the others interested in the Toronto 'News' will be grieved to hear that my hon. friend has visited it with his condemnation. I wonder did he condemn the Toronto 'News' last autumn when it prophesied that his constituency would return a Liberal, and I wonder also whether he condemned such

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a renegade party organ as the 'Globe,' for instance, when, on the introduction of the Autonomy Bill it came out in flat opposition to it. I wonder whether the Liberal associations throughout the country which have sent petitions to this House against the Bill and those gentlemen who have signed the numerous petitions laid on the table and who rank as Grits, and those newspapers independent, Liberal and Conservative, which have dared to point out that we are attempting to usurp powers which belong to the provinces—I wonder whether all these come under my hon. friend's condemnatory tongue and are denounced by him as renegade Grits.

It is with considerable diffidence, Mr. Speaker, that I approach the consideration of so important and momentous a question as the one we are discussing. Were I not impelled by a sense of the responsibility which rests upon me, as a member of this House, and of the obligation which I am under to those who have honoured me with their confidence, were I not convinced that I should betray that confidence and not be worthy of the name of a British subject, if I did not lift up my voice in opposition to the clauses of this Bill which I believe interfere with British institutions and British traditions, I would leave the discussion of this matter entirely in the hands of the older and more experienced members of this House. But I feel bound by a sense of duty to put my views on record. The importance of this measure cannot be minimized. We have now reached a period in our history when our western Territories have developed to such an extent that they require greater autonomy and are entitled to be raised to the status of a province. What we are about to do is not to create new provinces in the sense of establishing provinces with new peoples and new traditions, but we are simply lengthening the cords and strengthening the stakes of the Dominion. We are simply, in the progress of development, transforming the Territories into provinces and granting to the provinces we are creating the constitution, the rights, powers and authorities to which they are entitled under our Confederation Acts. In doing this, we should be actuated by that broad and liberal spirit which my hon. friend from Peterborough (Mr. Hall) tells us characterized the fathers of confederation; we should seek to avoid being niggardly in the legislation by which we are conferring a constitution on these provinces. We should be careful not to impose on them any bonds or shackles which may give rise to heart-burnings in the future, but give them a broad and liberal constitution which in years to come they will regard as a measure that was conceived and discussed in the broadest spirit of statesmanship. But that will be a realization which we cannot hope for, should this Bill go through with