

but what I contend for and what I hold is that we should leave that question to them, and that we should not start out by emphasizing by Dominion legislation the importance of dividing the children up into different camps and cliques. It may be necessary to do that, it may be in the interest of the people of the Northwest that there should be religious education, but what I say is that we should not emphasize the fact at this time taking everything into consideration by our legislation. The new provinces should be permitted to deal with this question in the way which may seem best suited to their conditions as time goes on. What are their conditions? In these Northwest Territories we have colonies of Swedes, Finns, Bohemians, Hungarians, Jews, Austrians, Germans, Russians, Icelanders, Mennonites, Galicians and Doukhobors. The question is how to assimilate these races and how to secure their co-operation in building up the nation. It requires every effort we can possibly think of to establish this union, and I think, Mr. Speaker, in no way can this great task be better accomplished than by national public schools. This, Sir, is a provincial question. It is a provincial question in the province of Quebec notwithstanding the British North America Act. If there were not a word in the British North America Act in reference to the situation in Ontario and Quebec, the school system would be precisely the same as it is at the present time, because it is by provincial legislation that these matters are regulated and the people of Quebec, Ontario and all the other provinces know better how to regulate these matters to suit their conditions than we do in this parliament. One condition is necessary in the province of Quebec where certain conditions prevail, another system in Ontario, another system in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and perhaps another system in Manitoba or in our great Northwest which is growing and into which so many different nationalities are going. I say it is essentially a provincial question. It is a provincial question in Ontario and Quebec, notwithstanding the fact that reference is made to it in the British North America Act. I believe that upon the seven members from the Northwest must rest the responsibility for this legislation, because if these gentlemen had insisted upon the question being left to the provinces, there is no doubt but what they would have won the day. I am sorry for the course which events have taken. I believe that if the question had been left to the provinces the government would have been less embarrassed than they are at the present time by reason of the course which they have taken. I and other hon. members have said that it is unconstitutional to interfere with this question. We are doing something that is unconstitutional. We are amending the constitution. I say in the name of peace and in the name of harmony let us drop these educational clauses out of the Bill. They

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are unconstitutional in any case, and let the provinces be free to act in their own best interests as time goes on.

Mr. W. M. GERMAN (Welland). Mr. Speaker, I have listened attentively and with such intelligence as I could bring to bear to the remarks of the hon. member for East Toronto (Mr. Kemp), who has just taken his seat, and I must say, with all due deference to that hon. gentleman and to the ability he usually displays, that I have been absolutely unable to discover one single tittle of argument why any one should vote against the proposition of the government. I can easily understand why there is some dearth of argument from the opposition benches, at present at any rate. The government have been challenged frequently across the floor of this House that they dare not put up a candidate in Centre Toronto in opposition to the lately elected member. Whether they were afraid to put up a candidate or not, I cannot say; but Sir, is it not an astonishing thing that in the very heart of the country which is most interested in the question now before parliament the opposition dare not put up a candidate against the government? I can easily understand how it is that the wind of their argument is knocked out, now that they must admit that the people whose interests are most directly affected by the passage of this Bill are satisfied with the measure; for if they are satisfied, surely the people in the other portions of the Dominion should be satisfied.

The hon. gentleman said that the premier had tossed this vexed question into the arena of politics with undue haste, which he regretted exceedingly. Well, Sir, the matter had to come into politics. Provinces had to be created out of the Northwest Territories. The leader of the opposition had been for months and years crying out against the government for not creating provinces out of those Territories. The government saw fit at this time to bring down a Bill to create these provinces, and, as an adjunct to that Bill and an incident in the creation of these provinces, the school question had to come up and be discussed; and I presume that it will be discussed as calmly and as intelligently as possible, and a decision arrived at, and that decision will settle the matter for all time to come. The question is, what shall that decision be, what settlement shall we make of the question now before us? We are creating provinces in the Northwest, large provinces, which will in the near future, I believe, contain a population larger than the present population of Canada; and we desire to set those provinces on their way in a happy and contented condition, with an opportunity to extend and grow, and with all the people now living in or hereafter coming into those provinces satisfied with their condition.

I do not intend to enter into any legal