

have been unable to get it. I was present at that debate and was amazed to hear the construction which the Minister of Justice put upon the arguments, which were then used by Mr. Haultain. I have not been able to verify the quotation made by him from the Regina 'Leader' but a short time later I was able to get an official report of that debate; and as I believe the report was given quite as fully in the Regina 'Leader,' I think that this official report will show clearly what Mr. Haultain said at the time, and I imagine it will be very similar indeed to what appeared in the Regina 'Leader.'

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Does the hon. gentleman say I misquoted the Regina 'Leader'?

Mr. LAKE. No, I do not, but presently, when I shall have read the actual statement, he will see wherein he gave a different construction to the arguments of Mr. Haultain than they actually bore.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. I quoted the Regina 'Leader.'

Mr. LAKE. But the Regina 'Leader' unfortunately cannot be produced.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. It will be produced all right.

Mr. LAKE. I am glad to hear it. I intend at any rate to read from this report printed in pamphlet form, which I think will have the result of laying the arguments used by Mr. Haultain with regard to the school system before this House as they really were used. Mr. Haultain had been arguing with regard to the public money to be used for public works, and he went on to say:

I can say the same with regard to the school system of the Territories. Mr. Roblin has already admitted that to some extent, and of course it is a matter which does not admit of any controversy, we have fortunately been able to give large grants to schools, and I hope we will be able to continue to give as large grants as possible. True, we are face to face with a reduction next year, but even next year the average rural school district in the Territories will be able to earn, roughly speaking, about twice as much as it could under the provincial system of Manitoba.

Mr. Roblin says regarding school grants, that they have not the power of drawing on the Dominion government for the purpose of paying large grants. Well, my experience of drawing on the Dominion government for money to pay school grants is not so flattering as we may have led you to imagine. We get a certain amount of money, the same as Manitoba itself, a large percentage of which—about 40 per cent—we devoted to giving our children an education, but we do not get that money as a favour, we are just as much entitled to a subsidy from Ottawa as Manitoba. The only difference is that Manitoba gets something in proportion to her rights as a province, while we do not get anything in proportion to our rights. Of course as time goes on, as settlements fill up, as more

land is brought under taxation, as people are better able to help themselves, I have no hesitation in saying that our school grants will gradually be lowered. But that is not the point. At present they are larger than in Manitoba, and it will be a good many years before we get down to the same figures as in Manitoba. And these, after all, are the years which most concern us.

He does not mention the public schools again until a few sentences later on and then he says:

In eastern Assinibola, what, after all, are today the main problems for you, as farmers, to consider—the things which you would expect to be changed by any change of system, and of course changed for the better? Speaking generally, they can be grouped under these heads:

Good roads—and there is the minor question of transportation. You may have a railway, but you must have good roads to haul your products to the railway, and the streams must be bridged.

Railways.

Schools.

And in certain portions of Assinibola you want a good water supply.

Again he says:

With regard to roads, unless you formed into municipalities in Manitoba, you would get precious few roads built for you. Under our system you have a very much larger expenditure for that purpose besides not having to assume the burdensome machinery of the municipal system of Manitoba, as well as being liable to the provincial levy.

Now this is the sentence:

There is no question that you are fairly well contented with our school system.

An hon. MEMBER. Hear, hear.

Mr. LAKE (reading).

There is no question that you are fairly well contented with our school system, and if you are to change you will not change because you think you will get your school grants reduced.

I heard some hon. gentlemen say 'hear, hear.' I have read I think, almost every word that was said by Mr. Haultain in that speech in regard to schools, and the burden of the whole argument was with reference to the system of grants in aid of education. If the report in the 'Leader' is the same as in this paper, the fact that only half that sentence was quoted puts an entirely different construction upon the whole of Mr. Haultain's argument. I do not propose to offer any comments other than to say that if the Minister of Justice was as inaccurate in all his statements as in these two I have brought to notice, that gentleman's speech will have very little weight in this House or in the country. The member for St. John (Mr. Stockton) pretty well demolished the legal argument of the Minister of Justice, and I think I have shown what reliance can be placed upon at least two of the statements which he made as statements of fact.