

from both sides of the House, and I am forced to admit that from the constitutional standpoint I do not know much more than when the debate began. But, Sir, I will say, that so far as I can understand the matter, the people of the Northwest Territories have from time to time seen fit to change their educational policy to meet the circumstances and conditions as they arose. No doubt there is a great deal in what hon. gentlemen opposite tell us; that in the Northwest Territories they have a fairly good educational policy at the present time, but, if it suits existing conditions who is going to say that it will be a satisfactory policy in 100 years from now. Therefore I will not cast my vote to shackle these provinces in their educational policy for all time to come. In my opinion it is a question which the provinces themselves can well deal with, and in the interest of the people of the Territories and in the interest of the country generally, it would be far better to leave the question in the hands of the new provinces. If that had been done this very delicate question would be removed from the arena of federal politics and the feeling which exists in the country at this moment would not have arisen. Now, Sir, I have spoken just as I have felt on this question; I may not have been able to put my argument in as concise a form as would a lawyer or a doctor.

An hon. MEMBER. Or a preacher.

Mr. STAPLES. Or a preacher, as my hon. friend suggests; and since a preacher has been referred to I would like to ask the hon. gentleman from Grey (Mr. Miller) what answer he sent to the resolution sent him by the Ministerial Association?

Mr. MILLER. I have a number of ministers in my riding but none of them, as a Ministerial Association or otherwise, sent me anything requiring any answer save the statement that I would vote on this question just as I believe to be right and according to my own judgment and my own conscience. I have not received any letter from any Ministerial Association that I know of.

Mr. STAPLES. I accept the hon. gentleman's statement, but I know that the other members of this House received a resolution from the Ministerial Association, and that resolution was accompanied by a letter saying that they had sent, it to the hon. gentleman from South Grey. However, as the hon. gentlemen (Mr. Miller) says he did not get the resolution I accept his explanation.

Mr. J. H. LAMONT (Saskatchewan). Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in this debate, which has continued now nearly three weeks, I do so conscious that I will not be able to add much that is new or original in argument to what has already been said in this House. But, as I have the honour of representing a constituency within the

bound of the proposed new province of Saskatchewan, I desire to say a few words on the measure now before the House. At the outset, Mr. Speaker, as a new member of parliament, it is perhaps proper that I should ask this House to extend to me that gracious indulgence which is usually allowed to one who solicits its attention for the first time. Up to the present, Mr. Speaker, I have not occupied the time of this parliament, nor will I do so now, at greater length than is necessary to set before the House the views which as a western representative I hold on the important measure now under consideration. The feeling which the introduction of this legislation, granting provincial autonomy, produced in the west, I think I may say the universal feeling, was a feeling of gratification that this government had decided to grant to the people of the Territories provincial rights and powers. There was of course some objection to some of the provisions contained in the Bill, and there were some criticisms as to certain of its terms and conditions, but the general sentiment throughout the entire west was one of satisfaction and gratification at being recorded that larger measures of self-government provided for in the legislation now before the House. In bringing down this Bill, the government has recognized the desire of the people of the west for provincial autonomy. That desire has been evidenced on several occasions by resolutions passed by the legislative assembly at Regina; but while these resolutions are evidence of the desire of the people of the west for provincial institutions, they are not evidence that the people of the west or the members of the territorial legislature ever agreed as to the terms and conditions upon which they desire that autonomy should be granted. I point this out, Mr. Speaker, because it has been stated in this House inferentially by the hon. member for Calgary, (Mr. M. S. McCarthy), and explicitly and directly by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle, (Mr. Lake), that terms of the draft Bill which Mr. Haultain submitted to this government received the endorsement of the members of the legislature at Regina. The language used by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle was as follows:

In the following spring—

That is the spring following the submission of the draft Bill by Mr. Haultain.

In the following spring at the next session of the assembly that Bill was laid before the assembly and unanimously endorsed by them.

That, Mr. Speaker, I think is hardly a correct statement of the case. At the meeting of the legislature following the submission of the draft Bill by Mr. Haultain, the matter came before the legislative assembly on the following resolution:

Be it resolved that this House regrets that the Federal government has decided not to in-