

loving people. Being comparatively weak and helpless, they must largely depend on others to fight their battles for them.

The effort made in 1896 to compel Manitoba to grant separate schools nearly drove the people of that province into rebellion, and had it not been abandoned, would doubtless have resulted in serious consequences. In view of this, is it not little short of criminal folly to attempt to deprive the people of these new provinces of the right to control their own educational affairs as to them seems best. I would suggest that every member of our order lend a helping hand to prevent this outrage by writing or wiring and getting others to do so as well, the member for his constituency to oppose any legislation or enactment for that purpose. If we speak out freely and do our duty no government would dare to disobey our request. Brethren, let us do our duty; also get accompanying blank petitions signed by all friendly to our cause, giving name and occupation in every case, and forward to me to House of Commons post office, Ottawa, at earliest possible date.

T. S. SPROULE.

And here is the petition that accompanied it:

To the Honourable the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled:

We, the undersigned electors of the electoral division of do pray that in granting provincial autonomy to the Northwest Territories the Dominion parliament will not by any enactment or otherwise withhold from the newly created provinces full and unrestricted freedom of action in all matters affecting the establishment, maintenance and administration of schools—

Is there anything improper in that? Is there any appeal to race prejudice, or to passion, or to creed? Is there anything but the most respectful prayer that could be presented to parliament by any British subject in the country, and that for the purpose of preventing the importing into the political arena of Canada at the present time of one of those vexed questions that would result in arousing a great deal of feeling and doing a great deal of injury? Was I within my rights or was I doing an improper thing when I did this? If I was wrong in asking parliament to do that, the Minister of the Interior must have been wrong in resigning. Who induced me to do this, who compelled me? The very acts of the Prime Minister himself by the introduction of this Bill induced me to do it. Then who is responsible for it? Is it I who was trying to prevent it being done or the party who was importing the element of discord into this House and into the country at large, that element which had created so much bitter feeling in the past, and which experience has told us we had better avoid if possible in the future? Which one was doing the proper thing? In view of that, does the hon. member who has just taken his seat think he was justified in his endeavour to castigate the member for East Grey in the peculiar

Mr SPROULE.

fish-wife style to which some speakers are so admirably adapted?

Some hon. MEMBERS. Order.

Mr. SPROULE. Does he think that he was within his rights and doing the highest type of parliamentary duty when he gave vent to the utterances which we have heard to-night? If I was wrong in petitioning in the direction I did what has the hon. gentleman to say for himself and his leader and his friends, who have addressed petition to their confrères in Quebec, copies of which are being presented at the present time, some of which were presented to-day, against the very petition I have read?

Mr. JACQUES BUREAU (Three Rivers). I am glad my hon. friend from East Grey (Mr. Sproule) has put the question. I will continue the history of these petitions. There is in Montreal a club called Le Club Jacques Cartier. I think the hon. member for Jacques Cartier (Mr. Monk) and the leader of the opposition (Mr. R. L. Borden) know the place well. In that club was drafted, I understand by a man who has been very notorious of late as being the distributor of the tory corruption fund in the Sault Ste. Marie election, the petitions which I hold in my hand. Le Club Jacques Cartier is the head of the organization of the Tory party in Quebec. This petition which I hold in my hand was sent to the various Catholic organizations in Quebec, or at least in the constituency of Three Rivers, but luckily in my district they were not taken up as the hon. gentlemen expected. Some of them have been sent here to be presented to this House, and I am credibly informed, and have reason to believe, that it is a continuation of the game started by the hon. member for East Grey. In Ontario and the western provinces the cry is: Let us Tories take the lead and not permit this legislation to be carried, it is against provincial autonomy; but in Quebec we will present the other side of the medal, and we will tell the people to present petitions to the Prime Minister and the House. I notice that these petitions were taken to the Prime Minister and by him sent back to the members for the different ridings in which they were signed. They are worded:

(Translation.) Whereas in the Bill to establish and provide for two new provinces in the Northwest Territories, the following provisions are to be found, namely:

16. The provisions of section 93 of the British North America Act, 1867, shall apply to the said province as if, at the date upon which this Act comes into force, the territory comprised therein were already a province, the expression 'the union' in the said section being taken to mean the said date.

2. Subject to the provisions of the said section 93, and in continuance of the principles heretofore sanctioned under the Northwest Territories Act, it is enacted that the legislature of the said province shall pass all necessary laws in respect of education, and that it shall