

are trying to pay back the debt they owe and they promised to pay. If they do not do something in connection with this measure, they might lose Quebec, and so, because of party expediency they have introduced the measure now before the House.

Now the county of Haldimand I represent in this House had an election in 1895, and we had there the hon. member for Brandon (Mr. Sifton), who was then the Attorney General for the province of Manitoba. The 'Globe' says that he travelled 1,500 miles in order to teach the people of this country an object-lesson in provincial rights. That is what the 'Globe' said on April 13th, 1895. He travelled up and down the side roads of Haldimand county, preaching provincial rights. I want to read to hon. gentlemen opposite some of the nice, kind things that he said about them, and I notice that when he was speaking, many of his Liberal friends were very enthusiastic indeed, they applauded him most ferociously. Here is what he said at Caledonia on April 13, 1905 :

It was found that the system of education of 1895 which was followed in the school districts was no system at all. The result has been that throughout that section of the country where the separate school districts were in existence the people have grown up in a state of absolute ignorance and illiteracy. It is a notorious fact that in the province of Manitoba, in the district where the people are French and Roman Catholic, and where this system of schools has been in existence for twenty years, that it is a rare thing to find a person who can read and write. I could show you, if you were in Winnipeg, a petition which came in from the reeve of a Roman Catholic municipality in which six councillors of the municipality made their signatures by putting crosses upon the paper, and to which only one could sign his name. I can refer you to the discussion which took place in our legislature in 1890, when it was proposed that we should require by our municipal law that the reeve and councillors should be compelled to be capable of reading and writing, and a gentleman who represented a constituency almost exclusively French and Roman Catholic, which had no schools but these Catholic schools, stood up in the committee of the legislature and said that if the Bill became law in his constituency persons could not be got qualified for the office of reeve or councillor. I said a moment ago that upon the real condition of affairs becoming disclosed it became evident that it was necessary in the interests of the province of Manitoba, if we were to have a province, that we should have it educated, that some reform should be instituted, and we work for the purpose of finding out how the reform could be instituted. In the first place, the division of the management of the schools into two sections doubled the expense, and the first thing we decided upon was that we would do away with the double management and have one set of expenses.

Out of \$60,000 in 1888, which was up to that time the amount we were able to devote to education in the province of Manitoba, no less than \$10,000 was expended for the purpose of the management of the two sections, Protestant and Catholic. There were grave abuses in connection with the distribution of the money. We

have never been able to ascertain how the Catholic section worked the matter out, but I will give you one result of the distribution of the public money. They so managed that, while the Protestant school districts received \$197 each, the Catholic districts got \$347 each; that, while for each Protestant teacher there was paid \$121.76, for each Catholic teacher there was paid \$195.05; that while the Protestant school district taxed itself on the average \$456.20, the average direct taxation of the Catholic school district was only \$277.95. The drift of the whole administration was in the same direction. The drift of the administration was to give the Roman Catholic Church the benefit of the public money. That system is not at all like the Ontario separate school system—you have nothing of that kind here. Under that system public money went direct to the clergy of the Roman Catholic Church; under that system the clergy did practically what they liked with the money; they conducted the schools or not, as they saw fit, with the result which I have spoken of, namely, that the people in the districts they were supposed to educate grew up in absolute illiteracy; they did not fulfil the trust confided to them, but the money was used for the purposes of the church, and not for education.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not propose to read any more of the speeches of the hon. member for Brandon in my constituency. There are many more of them I could read that were delivered by him in that constituency, which I think were an insult to the Roman Catholic people of this country. I would like to know what the hon. gentlemen opposite from Quebec think of the opinions of the hon. member for Brandon in 1895. They are evidently the same opinions he holds now, because when he stood up in this House he practically reiterated the opinions he expressed in 1895. What do hon. gentlemen opposite from Quebec think of the slurs that he cast upon their race and upon their religion? Are we to believe that Roman Catholic schools mean ignorance and illiteracy? Are we to believe that when church schools have been established for twenty years in a district, and where the people of that district have gone to those schools, that no man in the township could be found who could read or write? Are we to believe that the Catholic priests of Manitoba took public money out of the public exchequer and put it into their pockets instead of giving it to the schools for which it was intended? Now, Sir, I want to say that so far as I am concerned I think these statements are gross exaggerations. In the county of Haldimand where I now live, and where I have always lived, I have been associated with the Catholic priests during all my life, they have been my friends, and one of them particularly is one of the closest friends I have, and I want to say that I do not believe those men would take public money and put it into their pockets instead of using it to educate the people of their flock. But so far, there is not a gentleman from the province of Quebec or a supporter of the right hon.

MR. MR. LALOR.