

against that, we are not proposing to give them advice with regard to what they shall do; we are only fighting for their right to establish such a system as suits their conditions. We are not condemning them for what they may or may not do in the future, we are not even advising them. Let them do as they like. If they wish to re-enact the present educational system, and re-enact the ordinances relating to the separate school system that they have there to-day, we have not a word of complaint against their doing so. But we say, Do not bind them with a chain that prevents them from doing what the constitution says they have a right to do and ought to be allowed to do.

Now the next question I shall consider is, Who are asking for educational rights for minorities in those provinces? Are the people in those provinces complaining, even the Roman Catholics, who, according to the census, number 30,000? So far as I know we have not had a single petition presented to this House from any of them asking that the provisions of this Bill be put through. Then why are we to be blamed if we say that these provisions are not needed there? The people there do not think they are needed, as otherwise I presume they would ask for them. So far as I know we have not yet received a single petition from that country asking that the new provinces be compelled to adopt that system; so far as I know not a single memorial of any description has come from that vast country asking us to adopt that system, though there are supposed to be 500,000 people in that country. Who is asking for it? Not the legislature of those Territories, because the Prime Minister of the Northwest legislature has declared that these school provisions are an improper interference with their rights, and he is opposed to them. He is speaking on behalf of that country, on behalf of all the people. Neither the majority nor the minority seems to be desirous of having this provision in the Bill. They have not asked their legislature for any change. Then I say, why should we force it upon them? Are we not coercing them? Then who are asking for it? It is not the other provinces of the confederation who have no separate schools. Five out of the seven provinces of the confederation have no separate schools; British Columbia has none, Manitoba has none, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have none, nor has Prince Edward Island. They are not asking for this measure, because they won't have it at home. Then we may assume they do not want it. Is Ontario asking for it? Up to the present time I think but one petition has come from Ontario recommending that the provisions in the Bill be put through. Then who is asking for it? Not the provinces who do not enjoy that system to-day. The only parties who are

clamouring for it are the clergy and the people of the province of Quebec.

Mr. O. E. TALBOT. It was the Jacques Cartier Club who started the movement.

Mr. SPROULE. That may be, that club is composed of a portion of the people of Quebec. But I am not denying them the right to do so, it is perfectly proper for them to do so. But I say this demand comes only from the clergy and the people of Quebec, who are asking us to force this system on an unwilling people. What is the situation to-day? Quebec is thousands of miles removed from that country. The great bulk of the people of Quebec know little about the conditions out there, and know little about the school system.

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. The people of Quebec have many relatives in the Northwest.

Mr. SPROULE. They have, and those relatives have not even asked for it, they are satisfied. Then why should Quebec, that is thousands of miles away from that country, force this Bill on an unwilling people? Do they know anything about the conditions out there? Do they know anything about the possibility of keeping up such a system there? The people out there know better than any others the conditions prevailing in that country. It does not necessarily follow that because separate schools can be carried out successfully in the province of Quebec they can be carried out with equal success in the Northwest Territories. Why do I say so? Because the conditions are altogether different. How wide is the average farm in Quebec? Fifteen rods, I think.

An hon. MEMBER. More than that.

Mr. SPROULE. Well, it cannot be more than twenty rods, because I notice there are four of them in a width of eighty rods on the river with one settler on each in Quebec. The houses are principally on the river front, where there is a river, and there is a family every twenty rods. The houses are so thickly located along these rivers that for miles and miles they look almost like villages. There is therefore great community of interest among them, the population is numerous, and they can keep up schools without any difficulty, it is not a heavy burden for them to do so. Now I have made a little calculation on this point. In the province of Quebec how many families have you to the square mile?

Mr. A. LAVERGNE. Two families and a lot of children.

Mr. SPROULE. According to the way their farms are laid out on the river front, you have at least twenty-one and a third families to the square mile, and every one of them has about a quarter of a hundred