

Northwest if left to themselves might decide to have two, but we have fixed it that there shall be only one legislative assembly. We have also to decide what the laws and courts shall be, what rules and regulations shall govern in the courts, what their rights shall be as to property and civil rights, the administration of justice, and so forth. The government have, I think wisely, in this Bill provided that all the laws and courts and officers shall be continued as they are at present, leaving it to the provinces to finally decide or to make any other provision that seems to them best. We have also to decide what shall be done with the Hudson Bay Company's privileges. We did not leave that to the provinces. We say in the Bill now before the House that nothing in this Bill shall in any way prejudice or affect the rights and privileges of the Hudson Bay Company. Then too, certain powers were granted to the Canadian Pacific Railway many years ago, whereby they were granted perpetual exemption from taxation on their road, their stations, sidings, workshops, buildings, rolling stock and all. That was embodied in an Act passed by this parliament many years ago. We have accordingly set forth in this Bill that these rights and privileges shall remain and so, Sir, you will see the importance of this Bill so far as the Northwest Territories are concerned. We have then had the important duty placed upon this parliament not only to decide and fix the boundaries of these Territories but their manner and procedure of government, their rights, privileges and so forth. In many of these respects we have probably gone against the wishes of some people, certainly in some cases we have gone against the wishes and desires of the present premier of the Territories, Mr. Haultain, but the wisdom of this House, will, I think, warrant the government in the stand they have taken, and I am quite sure that they are expressing the will of the great majority of the people of this Dominion in retaining the control of the public lands and arranging the constitution as they have done. There is also another question which has engaged the attention of this House almost exclusively in this debate; that is the question of education. What are we doing about education. We are simply legalizing the system of education that they have now in force, the system that has been in force for the last fifteen years. No member of this House from the Northwest Territories either Liberal or Conservative who has spoken on this Bill, has denied that the school system that they now have in force and have had in force for the last fifteen years in the Northwest Territories is a most excellent one; no complaints have reached the House from any parties up there objecting to the school system which they have in force for all these years. Mr. Haultain, the Prime Min-

Mr. CAMPBELL.

ister of the Northwest Territories has stated that if he were dictator to-morrow he would not change that school system by one iota.

Now, to my mind the objections that have been taken to these Bills and the arguments presented by many hon. gentlemen on the other side have been by no means fair. They have misrepresented the action of the government. It has been charged that by this legislation the government proposed to perpetuate in the Northwest a system of separate schools in the interest of the Roman Catholic church, a system that, so far as the provinces are concerned, will be as unchangeable as the laws of the Medes and Persians. They have said that we are strangling the new provinces, that we are binding them with bands of iron that they will never be able to break or unloose. And so the impression has gone forth throughout the country that we are doing something hideous in the Northwest, something that the people do not want, something that will inure to their grave disadvantage and will breed discontent and strife among them. It seems to me that this statement having gone forth, it is a right and proper thing for us to investigate and learn exactly what is being done. The territorial government of the Northwest Territories was first established in 1875 by an Act passed by the parliament of the Dominion. Under that Act the minority, Protestant or Catholic, was given the right to establish separate schools. They did establish these separate schools. For a number of years they had a dual system of education, the same as we have in the province of Ontario, and the same as they have in the province of Quebec. Some of these separate schools were Protestant schools but the larger portion of them were Roman Catholic. The public schools were managed by the government of the Northwest Territories, but the separate schools were managed and controlled as they are in the province of Quebec, and as they are in the province of Ontario, by the bodies that organized them. In the province of Quebec, I understand, the separate schools are exclusively Protestant schools. The Protestants manage these schools in their own way—they select the teachers, they prescribe the text books, they have their own inspectors. The provincial government gives these schools their regular grants of money, the same as to the other schools. In the province of Ontario the separate schools are largely Catholic schools, though a few of them are Protestant. As in Quebec the Protestants manage their own schools, so in Ontario the Roman Catholics manage their own schools, selecting the teachers, prescribing their qualification of teachers, selecting the text books and making their own rules for school government. In these schools it is prescribed that, for a certain portion of