

that you are to do this because some other section dealing with different schools contains these words. I never heard of such a construction in any authority, any text-book or any court.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have stated my own opinion and I have stated frankly that as a lawyer I would not be prepared to give an opinion. The Minister of Justice is there to give me advice on legal matters.

Mr. R. L. BORDEN. I would take almost any law from the Minister of Justice whose ability as a lawyer I very highly respect, and also from my right hon. friend, who I think, underrates his own ability, but I would not take any law like that from the Minister of Justice or any one, namely, that you are to construe a section as having certain words in it which it does not contain because another section dealing with something else altogether contains those words.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I have no fault to find with my hon. friend's statement. I give my view for what it is worth but as a member of the government I take my law from the Minister of Justice.

Mr. BARR. Would the Minister of Justice say what he does? Take the Dowrites who are becoming very numerous in that country, becoming a powerful section, who in many places would control a school; would the minister say that they could get in their work?

Mr. HERRON. I would like a distinct answer?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. Separate schools are confined to Protestants and Catholics alone.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. My hon. friend from the Northwest Territories who has asked a question knows very well the conditions existing there now, and those conditions which he is aware exists now will be continued hereafter; there will be no change.

Mr. HERRON. If the school system is to be continued as it is, what is the necessity of this amendment proposed by the member for Saskatchewan?

Mr. LALOR. Are we to understand that the separate schools are confined to Protestant and Catholic schools but that the public schools may be of any denomination, Mormons, Doukhobors, or any other section to which the majority in any section belongs?

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. That is the law.

Mr. LALOR. And are we to understand that the public schools of the country are to be conducted in that way? If that is what we are to understand, I think the

country at large will be surprised to know that the government are passing a measure of this kind.

Mr. BOURASSA. I wish to state to the member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Lamont) that I never asked the government or parliament to introduce church schools, either public or separate, in the Northwest Territories. I never made such a statement either in the House or outside of it. All I asked, and all I still ask, is that what is given to Catholics where they are a minority in a district should be given to them in a district where they are a majority. Of course I know they are entitled to more; I know that we give more to the Protestants in Quebec, and that if we were to reduce the Protestant schools in Quebec to the condition of the Catholic schools in the Northwest Territories there would be such an agitation for disallowance as no government here could resist. As I have stated, to my mind, the least that could be given for the protection of the minority in the Northwest would be the right to form separate schools of the character defined in the ordinance of 1901 in every district, whether they be a majority or a minority. That is the position I have taken. While I am sure the hon. member for Saskatchewan (Mr. Lamont), spoke in all good faith, at the same time I do not want to have him misrepresent me. In Quebec we have no such thing as church schools; but we have given and do give to the Protestant minority the full right to have schools conducted according to their wishes at which their children can receive such religious instructions as they see fit without interference from the government, and I think we should have the same thing in the west. I am glad to have it from the words of the member for Saskatchewan and from the Prime Minister, as well as from the leader of the opposition, that the objection which I have raised some two months ago, and which has been contradicted flatly by the Liberal press in Quebec, has been acknowledged, namely, that if we adopted clause 16, No. 2, we would have deprived the Catholics of all rights in respect of schools wherever they are a majority. I thank the member for Saskatchewan for introducing his amendment with a view to covering that point. However, I wish to say it seems to me it would be much more in conformity with the constitution of our country, as well as with the pledges taken by this parliament to give the right to the Catholic minority to their separate schools under the ordinance of 1901 where they are a majority, than by giving them the right contemplated by this amendment.

I have no personal objection to this, because I am in favour of the principle of religious freedom being left in the hands of the fathers of families as represented by their trustees; but undoubtedly, so far as