

discussion of this Bill. People will have different opinions on the legal situation, and the only place where that legal situation can be finally and definitely settled is in the highest tribunal of the empire—the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. It was stated by the hon. member for East Toronto that this legislation is ultra vires of the parliament of Canada. If it is it is invalid, and the provincial governments need pay no attention to it. It is said: Why not take this matter to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and get their decision as to the legality of this measure? That is not necessary. We are proposing to pass legislation which we believe to be intra vires of this parliament. If it is ultra vires, the provinces can ignore it; if it is intra vires, then I submit it is the proper legislation to pass, the only legislation which we can honestly and in fair play pass when we are creating these new provinces.

I wish to say, in the outset, that I have always been and am now opposed to the principle of separate schools. At no time in my life did I ever hold the opinion that it was desirable to have a system of separate schools in this country. From my boyhood days until the present moment I have had the same feeling; and if I did not believe that it was the bounden duty of this parliament, in keeping faith with the people of the Northwest under the provisions of the constitution, to pass the legislation which the government are asking parliament to pass, I would be prepared to vote against the government's Bill. I think it would be well to consider for a few moments how it happens that we have got separate schools in Canada. We have had petitions pouring into this parliament against the provisions of this Bill. We have had petitions very largely from the Loyal Orange lodges of the province of Ontario, and I find under my hand a report to the Right Worshipful Grand Master and members of that organization, which says:

We, the members of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ontario West, composed of men of various nationalities and of different shades of political opinion, unanimously pledge ourselves to use every legitimate means to drive from public life any and every member of parliament who votes for these objectionable measures.

I will be glad to know from the Right Worshipful Grand Master of that organization, the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule), if he approves of that sentiment.

Mr. SPROULE. I would be glad to know if the hon. member for Welland has the approval of his own constituents. He can deal with them.

Mr. GERMAN. I am quite prepared to deal with my own constituents, but in the meantime I am dealing with the hon. member for East Grey, and I would ask him if he approves of the sentiment propounded in

this resolution? It was stated by his friend the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Taylor) last night, when this same clause was read:

My hon. friend from East Grey did not produce any such document. On the contrary, he did not approve of the document that the member for Shefford read from.

I would be glad to know from the hon. member for East Grey whether he does approve of that statement.

Mr. SPROULE. I was not in when the hon. member for Shefford spoke, and consequently did not hear what he read.

Mr. GERMAN. But the hon. member has not yet answered my question.

Mr. SPROULE. I may tell the hon. member for Welland that I am not here to be cross-examined by him. He will have to settle the matter with his own constituents.

Mr. GERMAN. I tell the hon. member again that my constituents have full confidence in me. But they are exceedingly anxious to know whether the hon. member for East Grey, the Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Orange Order in the province of Ontario, approves of these words. Silence, I presume, gives consent, and the hon. gentleman does. Now, Sir, let us inquire how it is that we have separate schools in Upper Canada—the province of Ontario. I was old enough in 1862 and 1863, when the separate school agitation first arose in Upper Canada, to know that every Orangeman in Upper Canada supported the Conservative party and the separate school proposal.

Mr. SPROULE. When was that?

Mr. GERMAN. In 1863, in 1862 in—

Mr. SPROULE. Let me tell the hon. member that he is entirely wrong, and if he was as well informed on Canadian history as he professes to be he would not make the statement.

Mr. GERMAN. In 1862 I was living in my good old native county of Prince Edward and the man who represented Prince Edward at that time was William Anderson, the grand treasurer of the Loyal Orange Order of Upper Canada. He was elected on the separate school question with the support of every Orangeman in the county and of every Roman Catholic in the county, and he voted for separate schools in the old legislature of Upper Canada. Hon. John Hilliard Cameron did the same thing, and I say that if any organization as an organization in Canada is responsible for the establishment of separate schools in Upper Canada it is the Loyal Orange organization of the province of Ontario.

An hon. MEMBER. Because they were Conservatives.

Mr. GERMAN. Because they were Conservatives? One is led to wonder whether