

which all denominations accede, be taught from day to day by every teacher in our schools. There are certain things on which we can all unite. The differences between our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens and ourselves are not so great, but that we can lay down a few moral and Christian ethics which may be safely taught to the youth of our country, regardless of denomination. Is there any denomination which would deny the right of the teacher to instruct our youth to speak the truth? Can we not unite on a thing like that? Speak the truth. That will tell on the character of our people in the future. There is something on which we can unite and which can be inculcated every hour of the day—speak the truth. Then there is another moral duty—reverence the aged. That is something surely that all denominations can agree on, and that is not as fully impressed on the youth of our country as it should be. So I might go on and enumerate many of the Christian ethics which could be taught without the reading of scriptures or the introduction of prayers or the teaching of any dogma. The essentials of Christian religion upon which all are agreed are the forces we wish to see implanted in the youth of our country. I believe that that is the best solution of this difficulty, and I think our Northwest provinces are to be congratulated on the fact that up to the present they have closely got to a system of national schools. I believe there is no better system which can possibly be introduced into the Territories of our Northwest.

At six o'clock, House took recess.

### After Recess.

House resumed at eight o'clock.

### PRIVATE BILLS.

#### CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE—THIRD READINGS.

Bill (No. 104) respecting the Northern Bank.—Mr. Bole.

Bill (No. 81) respecting the Ottawa River Railway Company, and to change its name to 'The Central Railway Company of Canada.—Mr. Piché.

Bill (No. 90) respecting the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Company.—Mr. Ralph Smith.

Bill (No. 65) respecting the James Bay Railway Company.—Mr. Watson.

Bill (No. 75) respecting the Battleford and Lake Lenore Railway Company.—(Mr. Lamont.

Bill (No. 126) for the relief of E. A. Murphy.—Mr. Calvert.

Bill (No. 107) respecting a certain Patent of Celeste Joly.—Mr. Ralph Smith.

Bill (No. 84) respecting the Huron and Erie Loan and Savings Company.—Mr. Calvert.

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### SECOND READING.

Bill (No. 134) to incorporate the Provident Savings Association (Limited).—Mr. Gervais.

### PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY IN THE NORTHWEST.

Mr. COCKSHUTT. Mr. Speaker, before resuming the debate, may I say that I regret very much that my knowledge of the French language did not permit me to follow the argument of the hon. member for Richelieu (Mr. Bruneau) this afternoon, and that is the reason that I have not made any allusion to it. I should perhaps have made this explanation at first, but it slipped my memory. When the House rose at six o'clock I was endeavouring to show the difference between the system that is proposed for the new provinces and the system at present in vogue in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. I was drawing attention to the fact that the hon. the Minister of Finance had pointed out that there was a very slight difference between national schools and the proposed separate schools, the difference consisting in half an hour at the close of the day for religious exercises. To this he said that he thought there should be no serious objection; and, Mr. Speaker, I submit that this in itself is not sufficient to justify any serious objection; provided it could be satisfactorily carried out. But I endeavoured to show that there is no way in which it can be carried out without the various Christian and Protestant denominations clashing with one another. Hon. gentlemen opposite, I pointed out, were holding up to us this system and advocating its introduction into the Northwest as being a satisfactory solution of the question. Now, Sir, I have taken the trouble to look up one or two authorities in connection with the British educational system, and I do not think after looking it over that we can very well recommend its introduction into the Northwest, nor do I think that it could be introduced to the satisfaction of the citizens in those two great provinces. I have taken the opportunity of writing to a gentleman resident in one of the chief cities of the Dominion, a man who stands very high in the commercial world, and is also recognized as a great educational authority. He did not see fit to allow me to use his name, but he wrote me giving his view of the British educational system as at present in existence, and with your permission I will read a few words from the letter. I may say that this gentleman is eminently fitted to judge both of our system and of the British system, as he crosses the Atlantic twice a year frequently, and almost every year once.

The Educational Law passed by the Balfour government some two or three years ago has received the most determined opposition on the part of non-conforming religious bodies.